

News

Leach dispels Congressional perspective

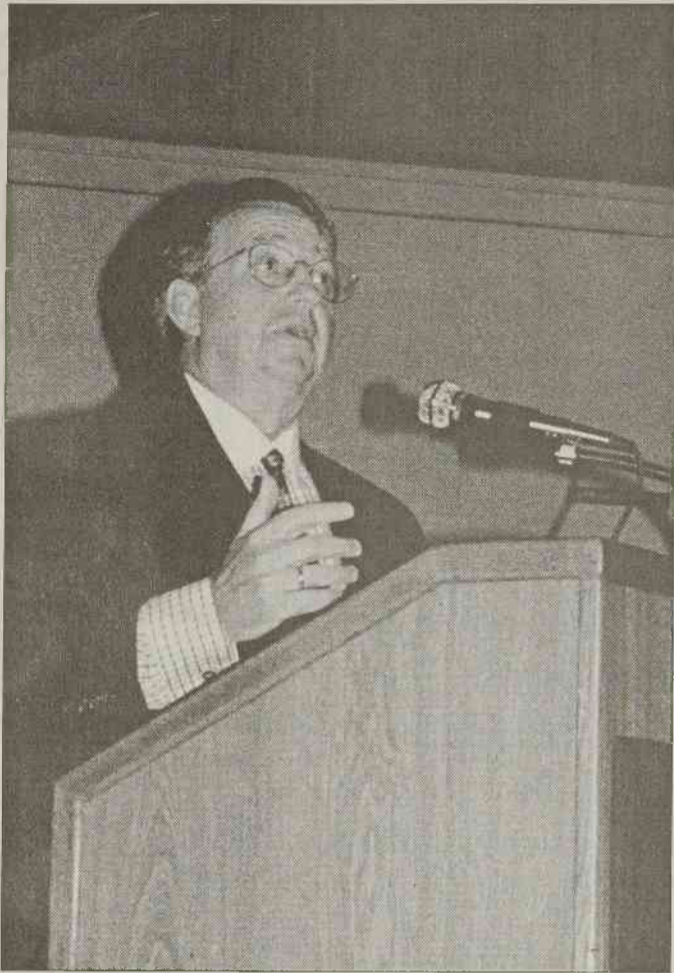


PHOTO BY JUSTIN MECKES

Jerry Leach, president of the World Affairs Council of America, spoke on Sept. 16 concerning the United Nations, Congress and the American people.

Lauren Owens
Staff Writer

Congress believes Americans have a lack of concern for involvement in the United Nations (U.N.) when, in reality, they are very supportive, according to Jerry Leach, president of the World Affairs Council of America (WACA), in a discussion Sept. 16.

"There is a very big gap in what people think about foreign affairs as compared to what Congress assumes people think," said Leach.

The basic point of the discussion was to inform people that issues like globalization, foreign aid and foreign affairs are not important to members of Congress and the presidential candidates, according to Leach. They are, however, very important to the American public, and most governmental bodies do not know this.

"I felt like the discussion was informative," said Mike Smith, a senior environmental studies major. "I am concerned with environmental issues like world trade, and I believe that the lack of concern from Congress about foreign affairs contributes to global problems."

According to Leach, the foreign aid budget was cut by about 40

percent in the 1990s, because Congress felt that the American people were not concerned with foreign affairs. The U.S. currently owes the U.N. \$1.5 billion in unpaid dues.

"There is a belief in Washington that American people want to be isolated in foreign affairs, but this belief is unfounded," said Leach. "Americans support the U.N., and they support that U.N. dues should be paid."

According to Leach, the American people are in favor of cooperation with foreign countries. They want to be active in foreign aid with the UN.

A poll said "82 percent of Congressional members believe that the American people feel negatively towards the U.N. and foreign policy, and want a significant reduction in the U.S. role in the U.N.," said Leach. "The poll said 75 percent of the American people actually believe in the U.N., and 85 percent of Americans want to strengthen U.S. involvement in the U.N."

Six national opinion polls show that only 10 percent of the American people oppose giving foreign aid. However, because of monetary issues, polls and election losses, there has been a foreign policy gap in America, according to Leach.

"Congress thinks that George Bush lost (in the 1992 election),

because he was a foreign affairs president, (and) Congress believes that Americans do not want to carry the monetary burden for foreign affairs," said Leach. "Finally, national opinion polls have led Congress astray."

These are false reasons, according to Leach, because Bush lost since he did not have a positive domestic record. Americans want to stay in foreign affairs and share monetary burden with other countries.

"National and local elections take place with foreign affairs in the background," said Leach. "There are very few elections where foreign affairs are the dominant issue. Domestic issues clearly have pre-eminence over foreign affairs in elections."

The members of Congress and the two main presidential candidates do not see foreign affairs as an important issue in the elections, according to Leach.

"I do not believe that there will be anything that can happen between now and Nov. 7 that will make foreign affairs more important in the different races," said Leach.

WACA offered to sponsor a presidential debate between Bush and Gore on foreign aid. Both candidates declined, which proves that candidates are not concerned with global issues, according to Leach. "We think that presidential de-

bates would be important to (WACA's) campaign," said Leach. "We would like a national debate about foreign issues like globalization, U.N. views and the comprehensive test ban treaty in Kosovo."

The issue of foreign aid is important for environmentalists as well, according to Leach, since they see foreign issues like world trade and a free market as necessary to any government office race.

According to Leach, the U.S. foreign aid program offers some environmental benefits. It has purchased agricultural materials from U.S. farmers, and the program also funds Peace Corps volunteers, according to Leach.

Funding the Peace Corps is important, because it has improved the understanding of different cultures. Leach said he sees this experience as improving U.S. foreign aid for environmental protection work.

Future WACA discussions will focus more on global trade issues, according to Sarah Ann Smith, director of WACA of WNC.

"We hope to have more students attend the discussion groups," said Smith. "The majority of the current audiences at most of these discussions are retired people."

These discussions, according to Smith, will focus on globalization. Other discussions will debate the ways in which international trade laws will affect Americans.

The Health Adventure at Pack Place will be hosting "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" on Oct. 13. Guests are encouraged to wear Victorian costumes. There will be live and silent auctions, and a crime to solve involving the museum's new exhibit, "Sherlock Holmes and The Clocktower Mystery." Mystery tours will begin at 7 and 7:30 p.m., and the tickets are \$75 per person. For more information, call (828) 254-6373, ext. 300.

Students are needed to give their input for the enhancement portion of UNCA's self study, an accreditation process that the university goes through every 10 years. A one-hour course is available, with late registration possible. For more information, e-mail slwilkin@bulldog.unca.edu.

The American Red Cross is having a critical blood shortage. All eligible donors are encouraged to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule an appointment to give blood. Some hospitals have been forced to postpone scheduled surgeries because of an inadequate blood supply. The Carolinas Blood Services Region of the Red Cross, which serves parts of N.C., has less than a day's blood supply of types O, A and B.

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If you're buying overpackaged or throwaway products, you're essentially buying trash. That means some of what's on your shopping list wastes energy, wastes natural resources and even increases pollution. So the next time you're in the store, look for less packaging, and choose stuff that's refillable and reusable. What's in your cart could make a world of difference. For a free shopping guide, please call 1-800-2-RECYCLE.

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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE
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The Blue Banner Weather

Seven Day Forecast

THURSDAY
Rain / T-storms
High: 76 Low: 61

FRIDAY
Scattered T-storms
High: 77 Low: 56

SATURDAY
Rain / T-storms
High: 74 Low: 62

SUNDAY
Rain / T-storms
High: 78 Low: 63

MONDAY
Scattered T-storms
High: 70 Low: 59

TUESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 68 Low: 48

WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 72 Low: 47

Local Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip*
Wednesday	83	60	78/57	0.00"
Thursday	84	63	77/56	Trace
Friday	74	53	77/56	0.00"
Saturday	67	46	77/56	0.00"
Sunday	68	38	77/55	0.00"
Monday	64	46	76/55	0.02"
Tuesday	81	53	76/55	Trace

Precipitation for the week 0.02"
Normal precipitation for the week 0.91"
Departure from normal for the week . . . -0.89"

Precipitation for the year 26.61"
Normal precipitation for year to date . . . 35.56"
Departure from normal for the year . . . -8.95"

* Precipitation includes snow converted to rainfall

North Carolina Recreational Forecast

It looks like a soggy end of the week and weekend is on tap across the state. A frontal boundary will slide into the Southeast and trigger numerous showers and thunderstorms. The front will pull up stationary and create an unstable atmosphere as we head into the weekend. Factor in models projecting a disturbance in the Gulf to move into the Southeast and the recipe says to stay indoors. By the beginning of next week, a secondary front will sweep everything out of the picture and bring cooler than normal temperatures with it. Highs will be in the 60s with cool lows in the 40s by the middle of next week.

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
New 9/27	7:18 a.m.	7:28 p.m.	12:22 a.m.	3:10 p.m.
Thu	7:18 a.m.	7:26 p.m.	1:22 a.m.	4:09 p.m.
Fri	7:19 a.m.	7:25 p.m.	2:26 a.m.	5:01 p.m.
Sat	7:20 a.m.	7:24 p.m.	3:34 a.m.	5:47 p.m.
Sun	7:21 a.m.	7:22 p.m.	4:43 a.m.	6:28 p.m.
1st Qtr 10/5	7:22 a.m.	7:21 p.m.	5:52 a.m.	7:06 p.m.
Tue	7:22 a.m.	7:19 p.m.	6:59 a.m.	7:40 p.m.
Wed				

National Weather Summary This Week

The Gulf of Mexico will continue to be a hot spot for tropical activity as models project two disturbances to move into the area. Residents along the Gulf Coast will certainly have to keep an eye on the situation as we head into the weekend. A strong cold front will sweep from the western United States all the way to the Atlantic seaboard by next week. The system is going to dump the first snow of the season for many areas of the Rockies and then it will be a rainmaker in the East. Flooding will definitely be an issue in portions of the Ohio River Valley states and the Northeast throughout the weekend. High pressure takes over behind the front and the country will be relatively serene by the middle of next week.

Sept. 21, 2000

Temps Last Week

Local High/Low Temps Last Week

Weather Trivia

Should you open your windows when a tornado warning is issued?

To find out the answer, log onto <http://www.accessweather.com/theblue-banner.html> to find today's trivia answer and previous Weather Trivia answers.

Weather History

Sept. 21, 1988 - High winds and locally heavy rains fell in the southwestern United States. Wind gusts of 86 mph were reported at Dell City, Texas, completely destroying an airport hangar. Large hail was produced in east central Utah while snow blanketed some of the higher elevations within the state.

Sept. 21, 1989 - Hurricane Hugo slammed into the South Carolina coast at about 11 p.m. The storm was responsible for 13 deaths, 420 injuries and damage estimates of eight billion dollars. Wind gusts as high as 138 mph were reported near Folly Beach, S.C. A storm surge of 20.2 feet was reported at Seewee Bay.