

Kerr speaks to government class

By BRENDA ANNAL

Representative John Kerr spoke to students in Betty Jane Turner's American National Government class October 10th about the workings of the North Carolina Senate and Legislature.

Kerr also discussed the condition of North Carolina's economy, education, and unemployment.

Kerr said he is interested in the development of Wayne County and especially in the growth of Wayne Community College.

The state raised \$600,000 for education funds, some of which helped save WCC and other community colleges.

Kerr is disappointed that even with this money, WCC's campus has not been completed.

When a student asked about unemployment in North Carolina, Kerr said he felt underemployment, not unemployment, is the real problem.

Kerr believes most people in North Carolina are overqualified for their jobs.

He commented that his job is always in jeopardy since the legislative body is re-elected every two years with a 25 percent turnover.

Kerr said he has been voted into office 3 times so far, and he hopes to continue serving North Carolina.

His parting advice for the next generation: "Cut the damn T.V. off and the children will be better for the future."

Sherman leads students to PLC

By DIANNA DEBEVEC

Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs), according to Becky Sherman, instructor in the Engineering Department, is a technology that has been around since the middle 1960s.

The PLC is a mini-computer which receives information from other machines and then sends signals to surrounding machines.

Because industry and manufacturing have replaced computers with this new technology, WCC's Engineering Department is keeping pace by incorporating PLCs in its curriculum.

The PLC program, new to WCC, will be taught one time a year in the spring quarter.

The class is limited to a maximum of 10 students because of space, capacity, and scheduling conflicts.

Sherman said that advanced engineering students will be the first to get the course.

The course, consisting of three lecture hours and two lab hours, carries four hours of credit.

For students to be considered for the course, they must have already completed the Basic Digital Logic Series.

The series consists of Digital Logic Fundamentals, Computer Electronics, and Micro-Processors.

The PLC course is a non-required elective for engineering students, but it is required for industrial maintenance students.

The program was added to the curriculum upon the approval of the Advisory Council, which consists of local engineers, all experts in the engineering field: Dean Cline, Bob Bruns, Al Huett, Kenny Kirk, Frank Raley, and Kipp Brown.

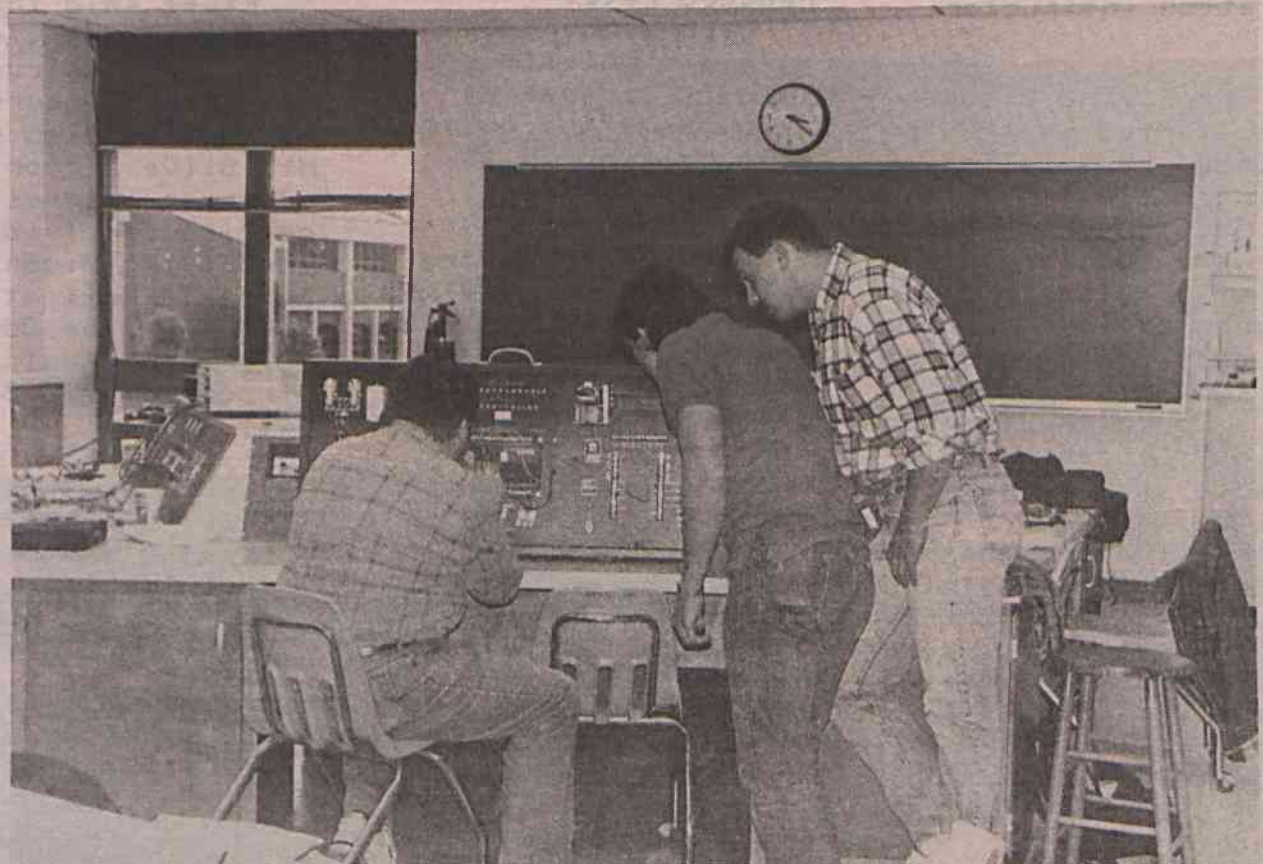
Standard Products, a local company, uses the PLC to keep constant the temperature of the molded rubber found around window, door, and windshield seals in cars.

A&P Parts, also a local industry, uses the PLC to monitor robotic arms of machines that bend tailpipes for mufflers to exact angles.

The PLC can also be found in some bowling alleys.

Here, the PLC may be used to set up bowling pins, keep score on the electronic score board, and distribute bowling balls on the ball return.

If the budget allows, Sherman will push to get the PLC program taught every quarter.



Engineering students work at a programmable logic controller.

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