

Whitley replaces Lancaster as speaker

By JEROME V. RAGLAND

Charlie Whitley, a former congressman for 10 years who has served under 6 United States presidents, spoke in place of Congressman Martin Lancaster on March 10, 1992, in the Lecture Hall of the LC Building, North Campus.

According to Betty Jane Turner, instructor in the Social Sciences Department who arranged the visit, Martin Lancaster had to be in Congress to vote on President Bush's proposal to stimulate the economy.

Approximately 200 students from WCC and area high and junior high schools attended, including a civics class of eighth and ninth graders from Wayne Country Day School.

Whitley has served 31 years in Washington, starting his career in 1961 at the end of Eisenhower's presidency.

He was an administrative assistant to Representative David Henderson for 16 years, and for the last 6 years has served as consultant for the Tobacco Institute.

Whitley spoke about many issues, citing the collapse of communism as the "most significant event to affect the world and government" in his experience.



Charlie Whitley talks with students after his speech: (l to r) Christine Holtz and David Keeter, ENG 151 students; Whitley; Betty Jane Turner, instructor; and Warren Reed, aide to Rep. Martin Lancaster.

He focused on foreign trade and explained that America has become more dependent on foreign products as opposed to U. S. goods.

Whitley said that America helped some countries build their industries in the early 1940's and 50's.

He said those same foreign countries are now our greatest competitors, producing goods of better quality and cheaper costs than American products.

Whitley said the economy will begin to improve if Americans start buying products made in their own country.

In response to a question, Whitley said our country sees a disparity between the amounts of money spent per student and student performance on standardized tests, especially in comparison with other countries.

Carol Ray, eighth grade teacher from Wayne County Day, asked Whitley his views on the congressional bank scandal. Whitley's response was that in his day, no representative assumed he or she could overdraw the account on purpose.



PHOTO: Jerome Ragland

Dislocated worker realizes dream

By TRELIVIA HODGES

"I want to encourage others to find a way to go to college," said former dislocated worker Michelle Harrell, now a college transfer student ready to graduate.

Harrell is a prime example of someone determined to reach her goals no matter how bleak the circumstances.

Harrell, just a sophomore in high school when her parents divorced, lost interest in school and decided to drop out.

Born in Clayton, NC, she later moved to Wake County where she attended Garner High School.

She worked at the Services for the Blind in Raleigh where she was a food service cashier.

When Harrell moved to Goldsboro in 1982, she worked at a variety of jobs to make ends meet.

In the beginning finances prevented her from attending college, but in 1987 she went through the GED program at WCC to get a high school diploma.

After receiving her GED, Harrell started working at Barry's where she held a secure position.

She received \$6.85 an hour for sewing

slippers, starting temporarily as a general inspector.

She was a sewing machine operator from 1987 -1990.

Then on a Tuesday, workers were told that they would be out of a job by the end of the week.

Harrell began to panic because the bills were steadily coming in.

The Employment Security Commission met with workers to inform them of a fund which would help with educational expenses if they would go to college.

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Rep. Carolyn Russell speaks to Betty Jane Turner's government class.

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