

O'Connor cites problems in government

By BRENDA MCCARTY

Paul T. O'Connor, visiting syndicated journalist, says that the N.C. Legislature should be attuned more to the common person and less to big business and special interest groups.

He spoke to WCC and Wayne Country Day students on Friday, April 10, 1992.

A member of the Legislative Press Corps, O'Connor has his base of operations in Raleigh, N.C. where he works for the Capitol Press Corps.

Approximately 55-60 newspapers carry his column.

O'Connor, a news-writer for 15 1/2 years, also does some freelance writing and teaches a journalism course annually at UNC-Chapel Hill.

O'Connor stated that writing freelance enables him to build a college fund for his 9-year-old son.

O'Connor, asked to share the range of his salary, replied that annual salaries of journalists in the Legislative Capitol Press Corps ranged from \$22-45 thousand.

O'Connor told the students in Eng 161, Introduction to Journalism, that he originally intended to major in landscape architecture but chose journalism instead.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, he received his undergraduate degree in American Studies from Notre Dame University and a master's in journalism from the University of Minnesota.

O'Connor said while he champions more of a liberal view, he supports Pro-Life, pointing out that government programs are needed to assist mothers and infants.

O'Connor spoke of Governor Martin as a man of honor, scruples, and morals, but he downplayed Martin's effectiveness when compared with his predecessors.

"We need a high quality person in state government who is bright, courageous, and farsighted," said O'Connor.



Journalism students Dianna Debevec and Tood Howe listen to Paul O'Connor as he responds to questions they have posed.

PHOTO: Liz Meador

O'Connor foresees a problem with leaders who are either unable or unwilling to do anything about these crucial problems facing North Carolina.

Furthermore, O'Connor said that he would like to see a mechanism which would prevent current legislature from undoing the work of previous legislatures.

O'Connor feels that the biggest problems facing North Carolina in the next decade are health care, improvements in education, racial concerns, crime and drug problems.

Spill still plagues

By: Martin Cox

After nearly 5 years the oil spill that occurred during the construction of the Learning Resources Center (LRC) Building on the North Campus continues to be a headache for school officials.

A contractor accidentally cut an oil line during the fall of 1987.

It was cut again during the initial repair.

At present the college has borne the brunt of the costs involved in cleanup.

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O'Connor spoke earlier in the day to combined English and history classes.

PHOTO: Trelvia Hodges

Speaking on the crime issue, O'Connor said, "We create an environment for crime."

He stated that 60% of today's prisoners do not finish high school and are not adequately screened for mental illness prior to incarceration.

Betty Jane Turner, instructor in Social Sciences, arranged for O'Connor's visit to Wayne Country Day and the WCC campus.



Randy Scussel, a Balfour representative (l), sizes ring finger of Michael Craig (r), a WCC student.

PHOTO: Blake Thornton