

Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

**Let's get physical**

Men's basketball coach Dave Odom tenses up as his players run down the court in a home game.

# Great minds gather at seminar

By Shannon Bothwell  
Senior Reporter

If you had trouble using a cellular phone in Tribble Hall the weekend of Nov. 21-22, it was probably because of the accumulated brain waves emanating from DeTamble Auditorium during the James Montgomery Hester Seminar in Philosophy.

Many of the most renowned thinkers and authors in the field of natural law were gathered for a series of lectures on the history of natural law and its application in contemporary legal controversies.

Between 33 and 54 people attended each of the talks, which were held in DeTamble. The audience was made up of the speakers, the moderators, faculty from this and other universities, graduate students and undergraduates.

"It was especially gratifying to have several former Wake Forest students come back and participate in the conference. Some of them are currently in graduate school, and others are in law school," said Win-Chiat Lee, an associate professor, the head of the philosophy department and the organizer of the conference.

Many of the undergraduate students attended because the topic of the conference was related to courses they were taking in the politics or philosophy departments.

"I particularly enjoyed Robert George's

lecture, as it was most relevant to material we covered in my philosophy of law class," junior Paul Thomas said.

The conference kicked off at 2 p.m. Nov. 21 with a talk by John Finnis, a professor of law and legal philosophy at Oxford University and a professor of law at the University of Notre Dame.

He lectured on "A Problem about Practical Reasonableness in Aquinas," and his stature as one of the most influential living scholars in the field generally awed the audience.

At 4 p.m. Terence Irwin, the Susan Linn Sage Professor of Philosophy and Humane Letters at Cornell University, gave a paper on a philosopher who serves as a bridge between medieval and early modern natural law thinkers. His talk on "Intrinsic Rightness, Duty, and Obligation: Suarez and His Critics" was a discussion of some thinkers who are somewhat out of the mainstream of the popular view of the natural-law tradition.

After a dinner break, the discussions resumed at 8 p.m. with a paper on "Natural Law Theory: One Tradition or Two?" given by Jerome Schneewind, a professor of philosophy at Johns Hopkins University. Schneewind instigated some prickly discussion by impugning Finnis' (an internationally-renowned expert in the field) understanding of the natural law tradition. The exchange between Finnis and Schneewind during the question period provided some of

the most heated moments of the conference, with Finnis quoting his previous works at length in his own defense.

The Nov. 22 lineup settled down a bit with a lecture at 9 a.m. by Knud Haakonssen, a professor of philosophy at Boston University, who again introduced the audience to little-known authors who contributed to the history of rights. His paper on "The Passage of Rights in Early Modern Philosophy" described a Protestant tradition of natural law up through Immanuel Kant.

"I thought many of Haakonssen's points were interesting, particularly the Pufendorffian analysis," Thomas said.

After steeping listeners in historical perspectives, the conference turned to more current issues at the 11 a.m. talk. Robert George, an associate professor of politics at Princeton University, critiqued Ronald Dworkin's view of constitutional interpretation in a paper on "Natural Law and the Moral Reading."

"George's talk related to topics we discussed in philosophy of law, such as the critiques of the Dworkinian position that deal with legislating from the bench," senior Suzie Danks said.

At 2:30 p.m. Jeremy Waldron, the Maurice and Hilda Friedman Professor of Law at Columbia University, provided another welcome glimpse at contemporary issues. Waldron's lecture on "Natural Law and the Single Mind" examined whether citizens have an obligation to obey a law that is not, in their estimation, fully just.

The conference wrapped up with a roundtable discussion involving all the speakers.

# SG finds success with initiatives this semester

By Reagan Humber  
News Production Assistant

Student Government has finally gotten into the business of governing, according to junior Tina Carlucci, Speaker of the House. "SG has changed from an organization that tried to identify special projects such as Shorty's to a policy-making body lobbying for student interests," Carlucci said.

With this shift in focus, SG has become more active this semester. For Carlucci, the most important issues that SG tackled include judicial reform and the establishment of a house in Washington, DC. The Judicial Board adopted

twelve out of thirteen of the SG resolutions on judicial reform. SG will hold a student referendum on judicial reform early next semester. "(The referendum) is an exception but hopefully it is the beginning of a precedent. It is important because the decision will come from the students and not just be handed down by the administration," Carlucci said.

Carlucci is excited about the prospect of the university purchasing a house in Washington for students participating in internships and other study programs. In a survey last year, 67 percent of students expressed an interest in participating in a study center in Washington.

**"The D.C. house will hopefully be a catalyst for a lot of action next semester."**

Melissa Michel  
Chairwoman of the Academic Committee

Juniors Melissa Michel and John Giokas are the chairmen of the Academic Committee, which participated most actively in the study of this proposal.

Carlucci, senior Scott Plumridge, the President, Michel and Giokas will present the first proposal for

the Washington study house to Sandra Boyette, the vice president for university advancement. They will present a second proposal to Boyette, President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. and the Board of Trustees for final approval.

The Academic Committee held a forum on plus/minus grading Dec. 3 and will host a student/faculty dinner Dec. 4. As for the future, Michel said, "the D.C. house will hopefully be a catalyst for a lot of action next semester." Next semester the committee will focus on the possibility of curriculum review and students sitting on the admissions board.

Overall, SG leaders are impressed

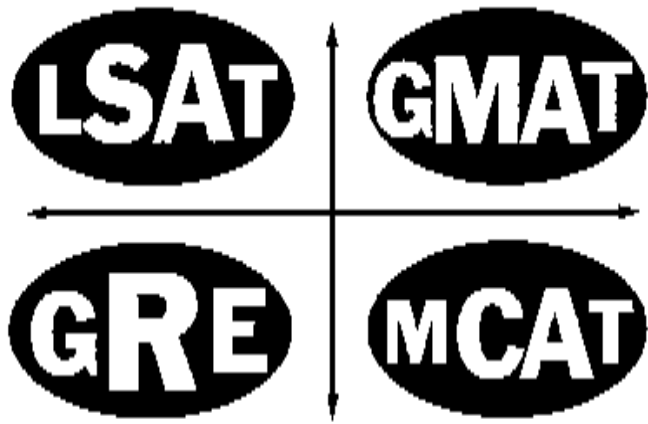
with the direction it has taken this year. "People are really debating. The enthusiasm is unprecedented," Carlucci said. The other committees have had a productive semester, as well. Sophomore Katherine Moore, the chairwoman of Student Relations Committee, said, "I was impressed with the commitment of the people in legislature, especially in my committee."

Sophomore Cary Savage, the chairwoman of Physical Planning Committee, also expressed her pleasure in SG's progress. "The semester was great. There were a lot of newcomers but everyone was excited and consistently completed their programs."

**For an update on the Kappa Sig appeal, visit the Old Gold and Black web page on Monday**

<http://www.ogb.wfu.edu>

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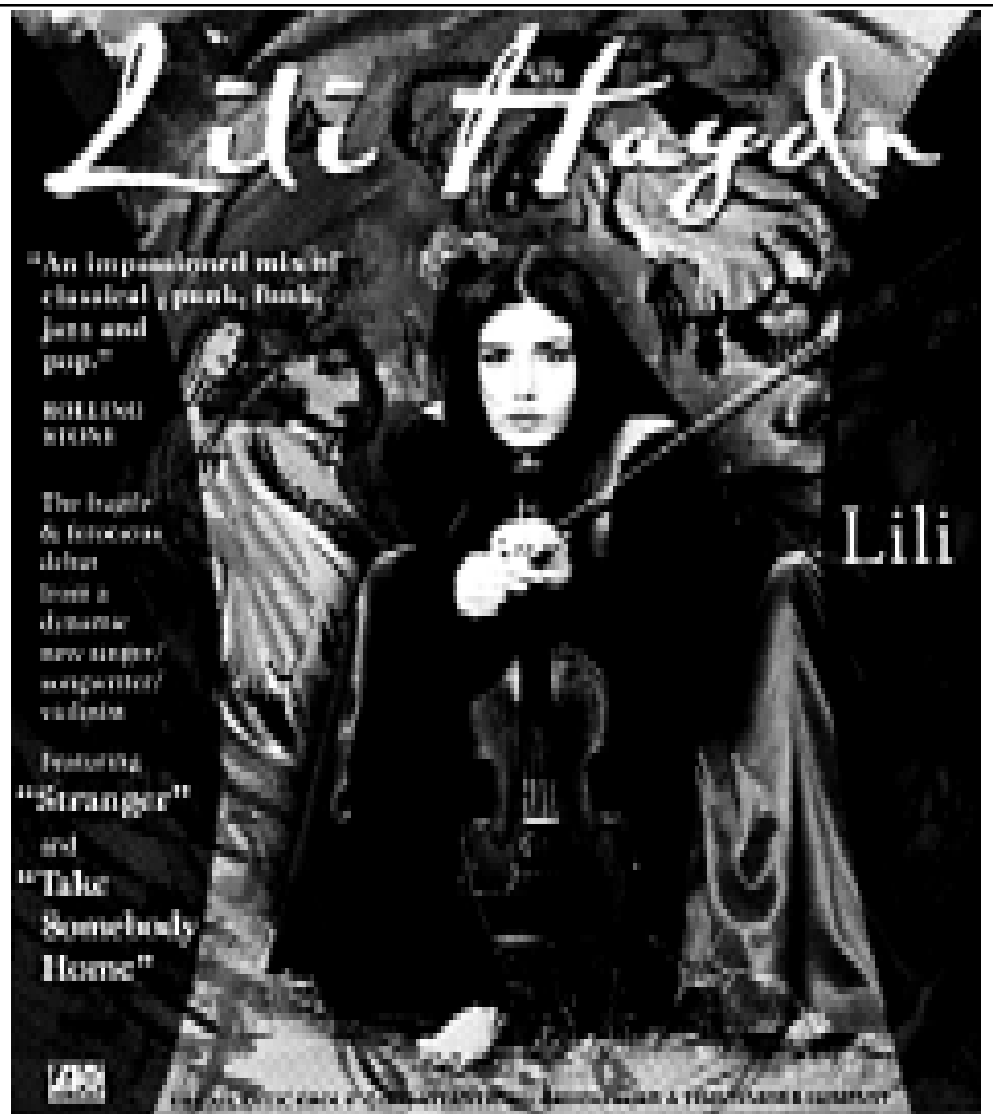
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## •• Undergraduate Research Opportunity ••

The initial offering of proposals for Wake Forest Research Fellowships will be made in the spring of 1998. This program is designed to encourage individual undergraduates to join their professors as junior partners on scholarly research projects. As many as 100 fellowships may be awarded for the 1998-99 academic year. The fellowships have a value of \$2,000.00.

Applications for this program will be available on January 12, 1998 in the Dean's Office (104 Reynolda) and the Summer Sessions Office (126 Reynolda). Completed applications should be returned to either of these offices by no later than Wednesday, February 11. Decisions will be made and applicants informed by Wednesday, March 4.

Questions about the program may be directed to Ms. Jane Lanford or Dean Toby Hale in 126 Reynolda Hall. One may reach Ms. Lanford or Dr. Hale at 758-5664 or by e-mail [lanford@wfu.edu](mailto:lanford@wfu.edu) or [haleta@wfu.edu](mailto:haleta@wfu.edu).



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