

Ambassador speaks on war crimes

By Brad Gunton
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Since the Cold War, there have been an increasing number of democracies and capitalistic societies. However, according to David Scheffer, the ambassador at large for war crimes issues with the State Department, there have also been a growing number of war crimes.

In his lecture March 2 in the Scales Fine Arts Center, "Realizing the Vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," Scheffer outlined the nature of war crimes and the efforts to hold the perpetrators of such crimes accountable. He said that most of today's armed conflicts are internal conflicts, involving either a government attacking its own people or rebels attacking the government. In fact, he said conventional cross-border warfare is relatively uncommon.

One of the sites where such war crimes have been committed is Sierra Leone on the West Coast of Africa, where rebels have burned down neighborhoods and tortured,

"Anyone who has seen the results of genocide has undergone a sobering experience."

David Scheffer

Ambassador at large for war crimes

raped and mutilated the villagers. As part of his job, Scheffer visits the sites of such massacres to survey the damage.

"Anyone who has seen the results of genocide has undergone a sobering experience," Scheffer said.

An example of a government attacking its own people is in Iraq, where no-fly zones are intended to prevent Saddam Hussein from attacking the Kurds. However, Hussein says that the no fly zones are a violation of Iraq's sovereignty.

Scheffer also talked about International Criminal Tribunals, which were established by the U. N. Security Council to investigate and bring to justice those responsible for war crimes.

One of the tribunals is for Yugoslavia, which deals with the ethnic cleansing and genocide in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo, and the other is for Rwanda, where more than one million tutsis were slaughtered in two months.

A recent treaty that has been signed by 76 countries would establish an International Criminal Court, or ICC, to replace the need for future international tribunals.

The ICC would be a treaty-based court that would exist independently of the United Nations.

The United States was one of seven countries that decided not to sign the treaty, partly because they thought that the court would have too large of a jurisdiction.

Although 76 countries have signed the Rome treaty, only Senegal has ratified it, and 60 countries must ratify it before it takes effect.

Scheffer said it might be three to five years before that happens because several countries must amend their own constitutions before the can ratify the treaty.

Scheffer is the first ambassador at large

for war crimes, a position that was created by secretary of state Madeleine Albright. He was invited to speak at the university as part of the Year of Globalization and Diversity.

"We thought he was very fitting, considering the theme of our year," said Tom Taylor, an accounting professor and a Year of Globalization and Diversity Committee member.

Scheffer said that he wanted to speak at the university in order to tell students of the important events that are happening in the world.

"It's extremely important for student bodies to be aware of some rather historical stuff going on in our time," Scheffer said. "The end of the Cold War was a cataclysmic event, and what has occurred since then is phenomenal."

Freshman Mikki Rozdolski said that Scheffer's lecture helped her gain a better understanding of current events.

"I wasn't really aware of the ICC," she said. "It makes you realize that there are war crimes and that they're horrific."



Stacia Harris/Old Gold and Black

David Scheffer, ambassador at large for war crimes with the Department of State, talks in Scales March 2.



Kirsten Nantz/Old Gold and Black

Authors Rosario Ferre, a Puerto Rican writer, and Christina Garcia, a Cuban-American writer, discuss how knowing two languages affects their writing at the Scales Fine Arts Center March 1. Both women are fluent in Spanish and English.

Hispanic writers discuss languages

By Whitney Brooks
Contributing Reporter

Two renowned Hispanic writers discussed their works and shared their thoughts about the connections between writing, language and heritage with students and professors March 1.

Rosario Ferre, a Puerto Rican writer, and Cristina Garcia, a Cuban-American writer, each read a few excerpts from their works.

These readings were followed by a question-and-answer session.

One prevalent topic that evoked many questions was the subject of language and writing. When asked about writing in English instead of Spanish, Ferre said, "Writing in English gives me a distance — I couldn't write the same things in Spanish. But I do not have a favorite language; I enjoy both of them very much."

She went on to say that "any writer whose is (worth his or her) salt must thrive on language. Having two languages is more complex. Language has a mind of its own — it will do what it pleases."

Garcia, who grew up in New York, also spoke on the subject of language.

"Spanish is the language of my home, but English is a more dominant language," she said. "I'm in awe of people who are so thoroughly bilingual. I write and think in English, and I have to stop and think, how do I capture the essence of Spanish in English?"

Many students were also interested to know more about the issues involved with being a female writer. A member of the audience asked the authors if they had "encountered many struggles as non-American women writers."

"Writing in English gives me a distance — I couldn't write the same things in Spanish."

Rosario Ferre
Puerto Rican writer

"I had no sense of what was out there," Garcia said. "My goal was just to see my book as a three-dimensional object. The real pressure, which is self-conscious, comes from waiting on your second novel. When you're writing the first one, no one knows about it. It is essential to protect ourselves from market consideration."

Both Garcia and Ferre were enthusiastic to talk about culture and the role it plays in their writing. Ferre said that she is "in between cultures. With a half-Latino and half-Anglo culture, it is important to look at things in a global way, and eventually the two will meet."

"Cuba was more a part of my home life, even though I grew up as a New York kid. It was like a private/public thing for me. The Cuban side of my life, which was more private, didn't really become public until I started writing," Garcia said.

Both Garcia and Ferre went on to discuss some of the more specific aspects of their writings, such as character inspirations and some of the autobiographical information from their novels.

The presentation was sponsored by the department of Romance languages, the office of multi-cultural affairs, American ethnic studies, the department of English and the N.C. Humanities Council.

Greeks promote academics through banquet, mentoring

By Jay Cridlin
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Students from the university's 22 fraternities and sororities gathered in the Magnolia Room March 2 for the Fourth Annual Greek Scholar Dinner, a banquet recognizing and encouraging academic excellence among students in the Greek community.

The semi-formal event, which each year honors both the senior and the pledge with the highest grade point averages in each organization, also welcomed students and faculty members who have influenced these

students and helped push them to their academic goals.

After a buffet dinner, sophomore Brian Schiller introduced the evening's guest speaker, Kay Singer, '71, who is also an associate dean of Trinity College at Duke University. Singer spoke of her experiences at this university in the 1960s, and her career and the friends and professors who helped influence it.

Singer also offered advice for the students in attendance.

"Life is a journey, not a guided tour," she said. "The same can be said for your time at

college. At Wake, within the prescribed curriculum, there is ample opportunity for you to take charge of your own path, and you should be willing to take responsibility for that."

Sophomore Rob Ferguson, the Inter-fraternity Council academic chairman, then announced the IFC's new policy requiring pledges with GPAs between 2.0 and 2.5 to be assigned academic mentors for tutoring and to attend two mandatory study sessions.

"By raising the GPAs of these new pledges," Ferguson said, "the IFC hopes

the overall GPA of fraternities in the future will rise. Furthermore, providing them with an opportunity to learn the skills they may or may not have already learned will, in the future, also boost the all-fraternity GPA well above that of the all-male GPA here at Wake Forest."

Junior Carrie Gilchrist closed the evening by giving special recognition to the individual students and organizations with the highest GPAs for the 1997-98 year.

For the fall of 1997, the average GPA of male Greek students was 2.91, as compared to the all-male GPA of 2.84. Lambda Chi

Alpha had the highest fraternity GPA with a 3.28.

The average sorority GPA for that semester was 3.28, bettering the 3.06 of the all-female population. The highest sorority GPA was Alpha Kappa Alpha with a 3.5.

For the spring 1998 semester, the average sorority GPA was 3.25, barely topping the all-female GPA of 3.2. The highest sorority was Delta Gamma with a 3.5.

The average fraternity GPA of 3.0 eclipsed the average male GPA of 2.96, with the highest fraternity GPA being Sigma Nu fraternity's 3.22.

BRIEFLY

Campus organizations may have their announcements listed by sending e-mail to news@ogb.wfu.edu, faxing to Ext. 4561 or writing to P.O. Box 7569. The deadline for inclusion in each week's paper is 5 p.m. Monday.

Applications available for student trustee

The new student trustee will be appointed by the board of trustees during the March board meeting and will begin her or his term during fall semester 1999 at the first meeting for that academic year.

The student trustee position is open to all rising, full-time junior and senior students who are not on academic or social probation.

The student trustee, if a junior during his or her term of office, may be elected to serve a second one-year term, at the discretion of the Nominations Committee of the board of trustees.

Applications for the position of student trustee are available at the Benson Center Information Desk. Completed application forms must be returned by 5 p.m. March 15 to Benson 311.

The names of those students selected by the Student Life Committee will appear before the student body for a referendum March 19.

No campaigning (written, verbal, electronic, etc.) is permitted for the referendum.

Benson to change chilled water loop

Facilities management will work within the mechanical room of the

Benson University Center March 6-12 to tie in the chilled water loop on campus to Benson and Tribble Hall.

The work will cut out the two absorber units and cooling towers located within the southwest corner of the building.

A crane will be located between the Z. Smith Reynolds Library and Benson.

Pedestrian traffic will not be allowed in this area until March 12.

Science professor to lead London group

An informational session will be held at 5 p.m. March 22 in Winston

B. Ron Dimock, a professor of biology, will describe and illustrate the Worrell House program for Fall 2000.

Courses in biology and environmental studies will be offered through the program, together with art history and theater.

Application forms will be available at the meeting.

Sorority to host Mr. Wake Forest contest

Kappa Delta sorority will host its third annual Mr. Wake Forest Contest at 8 p.m. March 24 in Brendle Recital Hall in the Scales Fine Arts Center.

Students can nominate someone they know for the contest, which will benefit the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse and the Brenner Children's Hospital.

Students can support the cause by picking up a ribbon in the Post Office of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library and wear it all week.

Summer jobs available in Benson Center

Benson is taking applications for a summer manager.

The job is 40 hours per week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

It will run from May 24 through August 7.

If interested, stop by Benson 335 and pick up an application.

For more information, call Gale Newport at Ext. 5230.

Applications for part-time summer employment will be available in March.

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