

# FEATURES

## Law expert speaks on globalism

Corbie Hill  
Features Reporter

An international law expert and lawyer gave a lecture entitled "Globalism and Its Discontents" Oct. 28. Sigran Skogly spoke in the crowded Laurel Forum before answering questions about globalism and international law.

"We tend to have a very polarized view of globalization. It's either very good or it's evil," said Skogly. "It depends on what you mean by the term. It depends on your viewpoint. If you mean corporate greed, global dominance of economic forces with personal profit as the only goal, or global institutions that pursue the benefit of the view to the detriment of the many, well that's the evil understanding of it. If you mean greater interaction among people, exchange of views and cultures and access to knowledge and information, it may not be such a bad term."

Skogly spoke for about 30 minutes before she opened the floor for questions. Her speech focused on definitions of globalization and explanations of how the international community functions. She specifically addressed world poverty and the growing gap between the rich and poor.

Globalization can mean better communication between different parts of the world, but can also mean the dominance of poor countries by richer ones. She said the Internet is a medium that promotes better global communication. China easily censored information and blocked foreign phone calls, but has not been able to ban Web sites that it disapproves of, according to Skogly.

"I hate to sound fatalistic, but globalization, in some form, is here to stay," said Skogly. "To rich it may not seem like wishing that there was never a man on the moon."

The first portion of Skogly's talk involved descriptions of international law. She said international law implements the same as the rules of conduct established between unsupervised children on a playground. Several audience members questioned the role the United States, a powerful country, might play in this playground. She answered with vague references to bullies, but wouldn't clarify whether or not the U.S. plays the role of that bully.

Globalization tries into international law as a variable that exists outside of the "playground." Globalization's effects are not fixed or inevitable, according to Skogly, but rely on the attitudes of the international community.

"International law operates in the world playground," said Skogly. "The world, in terms of legal regulation, is just about the same as the rules governing the conduct between and among kids in a playground. Globalization is this sort of vague thing that sits above the playground that the kids, or the states, in this playground can actually do whatever they want with. The forces of globalization are not inevitable. They are manageable if the actors want to deal with them."

Mark Gibney, a political science professor, said Skogly shows in her introduction that she understands the abuses of social, economic and cultural human rights that exist worldwide. She recently published a book entitled, "The Human Rights Obligations of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund," and will publish another book next summer.

"Most of us think of human rights in terms of torture and killings," said Gibney. "What gets ignored is what I call sort of the stepchild of human rights, which is social, economic and cultural rights."

## "The Sitcom Experience" showcases student talent

Margaret Lauzon  
Features Reporter



Burgess stars in his creation "The Sitcom Experience - Manor Daze."

The drama department will sponsor the Festival of Student Creativity featuring a series of student-organized plays, theater performances and improvisational comedy throughout November.

One event, "The Sitcom Experience - Manor Daze," began performances before an audience Oct. 24 and will present a new show each week.

The sitcom, presented like an actual TV sitcom minus the cameras, "aims" before a live audience.

"The idea for the sitcom occurred to me a couple years ago when I used to work at a movie theater," said writer and director Jeremy Burgess, a senior drama major. "I wrote the ideas down, and when the festival came along, I saw it as an opportunity to do a live situation comedy."

Students involved in the festival produce, direct, stage and perform the theater projects.

"It's a hands-on experience, and students may experiment with plays, comedy, and in the instance of the sitcom, even commercials."

"Manor Daze" showcases the everyday lives of a group of movie theater employees. A bored and disgruntled boss, Mr. Rob (Danny Tauber), ventures to manage the staff amid suicide attempts and work-place drama.

Sara (Janette DeVan), a studious good-girl, and Sunshine (Nina Ruffini), a sarcastic flake, dismiss their supervisor while discussing the date-ability of the eccentric projectionist, Jeremy (Jeremy Burgess).

"The sitcom is a really good opportunity to work independently, while putting something on for students and for fun," said Janette

DeVan, a junior drama major. The cast kept the audience at the previous two shows attentive and amused. The first performance was a sellout, so Burgess and the players added a second show.

The most amusing part of the performance rests in the hands of the sponsors.

Like television, shows can't air without sponsorship. So, the cast takes turns improvising commercials based on an array of clever props.

"A friend suggested I do commercials in between scenes," said Burgess. "It was a chance to do improvisation and get the audience's attention." "The commercials will be funny."

In one advertisement, Tauber, a senior drama major, made a very plug for Canada Dry, "because Canada Wet just sounds stupid."

The cast encourages the audience to participate by mandating two audience sponsors per break. The results are witty, hysterical and create an easy diversion from the show.

"The commercials help loosen up the audience and let everybody show their stuff," said Tauber. "They also fill out the show, so it is longer."

The show crosses vintage situation comedies like "Alice" with the spontaneity of "Whose Line is it Anyway?" to create interesting results.

For example, all characters seem relatable to any ordinary person trapped in job hell until projectionist Jeremy removes his one glove to

reveal a dog-like hand puppet named Jack.

If it sounds too demeaned, to be funny, recall the success of "Alf" and "Harry and the Hendersons." Jack mocks such family-friendly pals, and gives the show a touch of black comedy.

"Jack is a presentational device that acts as Jeremy's conscience - Jeremy's twisted conscience," said Burgess.

Jeremy accepts the cocky relationship expertise of golo Jack to motivate himself to ask out either Sunshine or Sara.

Every week ends with a cliffhanger, but other than that, the sitcom strays from cliché.

The actors, who receive their scripts weekly, relate well to each other and to their respective characters despite minimal preparation.

Mr. Rob (Tauber) offers an amusing portrayal of Mr. Rob with open loathing of life, customers and the brats who work for him.

The dynamics of the characters and the response of the audience make it evident everyone involved is having fun.

"Manor Daze" offers a unique Friday night experience, and with two shows offered, students can conveniently attend despite the always anticipated Friday night plans.

If the Festival of Student Creativity as a whole proves as different and animated as "The Sitcom Experience," November will be a great month for entertainment in the UNCA community. Contact the drama department for more information.

"The Sitcom Experience" airs Fridays 9:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. in the lower lobby of Carmichael Hall.

*"The sitcom is a really good opportunity to work independently, while putting something on for students and for fun."*

Janette DeVan  
junior drama major

## Zen Sushi offers affordable Japanese cuisine

Sarah Grano  
Features Reporter

Zen Sushi offers Japanese cooking and fresh sushi at reasonable prices. The restaurant, located on Merrimon Avenue next to Urban Burrito, has already established itself as a popular place to eat.

"I loved Zen Sushi," said Dave Cole, a customer at the restaurant. "I liked the food, and it just seemed like a very inviting atmosphere."

Zen Sushi provides food for both vegetarians and meat lovers in a small, relaxed setting.

"You get a whole lot of food, so it's worth it," said Meg Hale, a junior creative writing major. "But it seems like a lot of money for college kids with no money."

The restaurant offers a large variety of sushi, and is sure to please those who want something exotic, as well as those who are a little more timid.

"It's not as fishy as I thought it would be," said Hale, who tried tuna and salmon in her sushi. "It wasn't like eating raw fish is supposed to be in your head."

Cole, a longtime sushi lover, ordered eel. "The sushi guy told me you should eat it as a dessert because it's sweet," said Cole. "It was good."

The sushi comes with fresh ginger and spicy wasabi. When I received my dinner, I was a little over zealous with the wasabi and ended up with a bright red face, impaired breathing and clear nasal passages. For those who don't like eating raw fish wrapped in rice and sea-



Sony Chan, owner of Zen Sushi, prepares affordable fresh sushi entrees at the restaurant's sushi bar.

weed, there are many other options. Noodle soups are the cheapest at \$6.50, but there are also vegetarian and teriyaki entrees.

"They have a lot of good soups and a lot of stuff that's not sushi if that wigs you out," said Hale. "I got the vegetable udon, which is a really big soup bowl. It was good, and there was a whole lot of it."

Everyone I interviewed raved about Zen Sushi's food. I loved it to well. Although it took a long time to arrive, my meal was heavenly. The one problem with Zen Sushi on the night I visited was the service.

"Bless her heart," said Hale. "There was one waitress in this fairly busy place, and she was really slow. I mean, it wasn't her fault, but the service kind of sucked."

Hale and I ate at the restaurant on a Sunday night at six. By 6:30 p.m., the place was packed.

The new restaurant did not seem to be prepared for such early popularity. At one point in the evening, a table of customers left because they hadn't been served fast enough. While the service was slow, our

waitress was very nice and apologetic. I expect Zen Sushi will soon solve this problem by hiring a larger staff. Besides, the food is worth the wait.

Cole, who went at a different time than Hale and myself, had no problem with the service. He sat at the sushi bar, rather than at a table.

"The service was really good," said Cole. "I went at five on a Friday before the dinner crowd came in. Everybody was nice there." Cole was especially impressed with

the man who made the sushi.

"He'll tell you if something's not good, if he has a fish that's not fresh and what's good that day. He made suggestions for people, too."

Zen Sushi's atmosphere is unpretentious and relaxed. You have the choice of sitting either at one of the tables or at the sushi bar. If you sit at the sushi bar, you can watch your dinner being made.

"I really liked that it actually had a sushi bar," said Hale. "You can be right up next to the guy making the sushi."

The restaurant looked clean. Yellow and blue accented the primarily white walls. A lot of wood in the décor gave the restaurant a homey feel.

The mixed clientele included a few people in their 20s, but on Sunday night, the restaurant contained mostly people in their 30s, many of whom brought their children.

"It's a good family restaurant," said Hale. "I assume my son people would get their kids to eat sushi, because the kids were digging in. They were eating pea pods and fish."

For being such a new restaurant, Zen Sushi was really busy. Cole, who came in at five on a Friday, talked to the man at the sushi bar. "He said he almost wishes I wasn't so busy sometimes, which is crazy because he's only been open for a week," said Cole.

All those I spoke to loved Zen Sushi, despite a few kinks the new business needs to work out.

"It was a nice place," said Hale. "The food was fun, and I left with a full tummy."

## Review