
THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION

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ODUMUNC XXXV

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The Floodgates - Opening Ceremony

by Josefina Escobar

ODUMUNC 35 2012 is one of the biggest conferences in recorded ODU history. This year approximately more than a 1000 students are attending the Old Dominion University high school conference. There are about 53 different high schools registered for the event from all over the US. There were not even enough chairs for everyone in the room. A few people had to stand in the back, but Aaron Karp reassured them that "that's a good thing."

Among the millions of people all over the world, there are people that are well off and others that are not. In developing countries there are thousands of people starving of malnutrition, diseases, etc. A wise professor named Dr. Abdelhamid Abdeljaber emphasized a good analogy "in a ship one side there are the people that are wealthy and on the lower side there are poor people, if the ship sinks with those people everyone will go down." Therefore it does not matter how rich someone is or how poor, everyone in this world deserves attention. Individuals from different parts of the worlds need food, water, etc and there needs to be awareness in that.

According to Abdeljaber any ordinary person can go out of their way to make a difference and that it is vital for everyone to challenge themselves. It is encouraging to see more than a thousand eager and diligent students come from all over the US and ready to discuss current issues and crises.



Closing of the opening ceremony

Keynote Speaker 's Words of Wisdom

by Duenya H. and Evan W.

The keynote speaker, Abdelhamid (Hamid) Abdeljaber, spoke to the Legal Committee concerning Palestine's possible admittance into the United Nations. Professor Abdeljaber began his presentation with an overlook of Palestinian history, one that dates back to many years ago. It was a place for a people, and more importantly, the home of a Holy Land. He said, "You cannot claim it [Jerusalem] for one group."

In addition, Abdeljaber raised awareness to a key argument which was, "Does the Palestinian people deserve a state?" However, he did say that if they

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The “Calm” Before the “Storm”

by Arianne Agunod

After various amounts of times spent preparing for the conference and checking in with the hotel and the ODUMUN Registration office, high school delegates and college staff took part of their Thursday evening off. Down in the lobby, students and staff got down to dance, sing, or just mingle before the start of first session. Songs and dance-offs were initiated by both high school delegates and college staff, and incredible displays of talent and good humor. The hotel staff and faculty sponsors were also entertained by the casual atmosphere. Eventually, people started to peter out either by order of the sponsors, the curfews, or the simple but essential need for rest for both their minds and voices for the next day. Some highlights of the night included a dance performance from ODUMUN's Doug, a duet from MUN staff, a perfect “slug” dance move, a couple of beautiful voices doing their chosen songs justice, and a few groups of pals deliberately goofing up their songs just for the fun of it.



Laughter often outweighed the singing during last night's wonderful karaoke performances

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did there still would be many unresolved problems like refugees, borders, settlements, the wall, and natural resources.

During the question and answer period the delegation of Israel was recognized by Abdeljaber for their character and accurate portrayal of their country's beliefs by commenting on his presentation. Nevertheless, Abdeljaber told the delegates to "find the truth" and remain open minded, because it was now up to them to map out the course of the debate.

- Duenya H.

Last year, on the seventeenth of February, a revolution exploded across Libya with a riot that began in Benghazi. The people rebelled against the dictator Qaddafi, a man infamous for slaughtering those who dared to speak out against him, notably with public hangings and the brutal massacre of prisoners a year before the revolution. But by October twentieth of last year, the dictator lay dead and his nation lay shattered economically and politically. In Special Political Committee, representatives from outside nations and Libya itself attempted to put the pieces back together.

Abdelhamid Abdeljar advised the delegates as to how they might attempt to rebuild Libya after the death of Qaddafi. He noted specifically that the sudden change to democracy is not a pill easily swallowed, especially when forced, and to acknowledge the limits of foreign interference in a nation's affairs. The delegations from Germany, Myanmar, Egypt, and Estonia reiterated the same ideal, concluding that Libya must stand as a self-dependent nation.

- Evan W.

(In addition to visiting the SpecPol and Legal committees, Professor Hamid also shared his knowledge of international politics with the other committees.)

35 Years of MUNsters

by Arianne Agunod and Josefina Escobar



Founders Dr. Jerome Bookin-Weiner (front), Russell Lay (left), and Jim Lambert (right)

Model UN conferences for high school started after Dr. Bookin-Weiner saw college conferences and had the idea of giving it a shot. He was absolutely serious when bringing the idea up with ODU colleagues Russell Lay, Jim Lambert, and Debbie Sakowski, and in 1977, the first every ODUMUNC was held in one room in the Webb Student Center. About 50-70 delegates grouped together for the Security Council, the only assembly arranged for the first year.

Since then, ODUMUN has only grown under the guidance of dedicated directors and equally dedicated staff and delegates. Eventually, the conference was moved to hotels, and some directors even planned for events that took students abroad to places like Prague,

Cairo, and Albania.

This year's staff was delighted to hear such stories and receive words of advice and encouragement as the alumni also took the time to catch up with each other. As this is the 35th conference and ODUMUNC is still going strong, it was only appropriate as well as enjoyable to pay tribute to those who laid

Mutual Liaison between NGO Forum and ECOSOC

by Kelly Choi

Feeling content from a pleasant lunch, most delegates came back hurriedly into the Monticello Room where soon enough debates were sparked on controversial international issues. The chairs have begun with a casual manner, asking the delegates how they felt about NGOs who are ardently trying to come up with proposals to ECOSOC in the next room.

Briefly, the delegates complained about the lackadaisical progress of the NGO Forum, not realizing that they actually were one of the fastest-paced committee in the building. They had already finished their discussion on the first topic: Addressing rising global energy demand. According to a delegate in the committee, they had concluded that instead of using fuels and gases, they should implement ways to utilize algae as an energy source.

Within an hour after lunch, the delegates produced two working papers on the issue of 'The Effects of Rising Commodity Prices on Underdeveloped Nations.' One came from Chile and South Africa who insisted on Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The other was proposed by China and Cuba who specified their papers into three sections: agriculture, FTA, and use of biofuel. Delegates from NGO forums entered the room to sit in to discuss further about their first issue.

Their objectives were to propose ways that could be implemented in the working papers of ECOSOC. As I headed out of the room, energetics voices were heard as both NGOs and delegates of ECOSOC worked together to make any last-minute changes to their papers.

Reports from the dais– Day one

Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Today after great opening ceremonies, we started DISEC by voting no for all 3 topics. After the great confusion, we are proud to say we eventually, an hour or so later, chose a topic. We are even more honored to have Brian Rinaldo here as our Vice Chair. He has done a fantastic job and has kept a balance between seriousness of MUN and keeping us entertained. He has his own unique way of chairing and using his gavel. Also, “Turkey, Bingo, What? Turkey, Bingo, What?”
– Gulshan Chatta, Chair

Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian (SocHum)

The committee has remained productive with a slight comical spin for the majority of the day. Many countries have cooperated well with one another from setting debate parameters to voting on draft resolutions. The committee has clearly come prepared to, hypothetically, analyze, rationalize, and eradicate many global issues. The dialogue between the dais and committee has been successful.

Legal

The Legal committee occupied a busy and buzzing room today. The students spent most of the beginning of the day briefly reviewing debate rule sand becoming more familiar with procedures as most of the delegates were at their first conference. Focusing on the topic of Palestine Statehood and sovereignty, Israel spoke out a lot and great character, along with several other countries. The mood was kept light and the students had a lot to say as far as motions and dealing with the new dais. The students played then delegations and countries well, and there was nonstop action throughout the day.

Special Political (SpcPol)

In SPECPOL, the delegates worked together successfully, submitted so many working papers that the committee had to consolidate and table the topic for the next morning. Luckily, the delegates were able to work together in drafting merged papers. The entire last session was heated with intense debate in many caucuses. To offer assistance with the topic at hand, Professor Abdelhamid Abdeljaber gave a powerful and engaging speech. At the end of the day, we had to adjourn due to immense

debate and no real majority we ended with setting parameters for tomorrow with the topic set for Bahrain.

Economic and Social Council (EcoSoc)

The moderately debated topic was set to solving the rising commodity cost for developing countries. Issues arose concerning agriculture and subsidies. The eager delegates got to work with great fervor on their resolutions with lobbying and assistance from the NGO’s the issues were fleshed out. A total of five papers were voted on. Three of these passed with an overwhelming majority, making it every successful day. ROLL CALL!!!

Non-Governmental Organization Forum (NGO)

Working closely with ECOSOC, the NGO forum hotly debated the topic of unsustainably rising high prices of commodities. High commodity prices affect everything from nutrition to health-care for both developing and high-income nations. We learned how Plumpy-nuts are at the forefront of treating severe acute malnutrition. Plumpy-nuts save the world.

Future Security Council (FSC)

Tensions run high in the United Nations Security Council as the delegates are bombarded with world issues. Facing a massive civil war in Yemen, the representatives fell prey to political in-fighting, ending in a collapse of a nation and a mass exodus from the region by ethnic Somalis. Operation Boots On The Ground, a more aggressive take on deploying U.N. peacekeeper forces to the region, was amazingly and enormously unsuccessful. The failure to act caused countless civilians to flee Yemen across the strait of Bab-el-Mendeb. to the horn of Africa. This exacerbated the refugee crisis facing the region from a decade long draught. The failure to fix Yemen inspired the Security Council to act as a unified body able to deal with the multifaceted problem that faced the region. Using support from the newly powerful BRIC nations, and local officials, the Security Council was able to prevent riots in the refugee camps from blowing up into an armed conflict that still faces many parts of Africa. The Security Council now turns its attention to the newly formed Union of South and Latin America (USLA) and the emerging trade war between the USLA and Brazil.

The Secret Life of Pages

by Joanna Morelli

The Special Political Fourth Committee calls roll, giving primary rules and instructions for the conference; following the casual introductions, a student from Norfolk Academy Middle School is led into the dim meeting room by Secretary-General Luke X. Watson. Immediately upon entering, Watson announces that the student is Karl Diamonstein, a page for the Special Political Committee that should be treated with respect, and, if he is not, he may do as he pleases. To the delegation, he ordered “No tic tac toe, no ‘oh, hey, you’re stupid, you’re ugly, let’s dance ’” Watson declared upon arrival that “...the pages are a privilege, not a right.”

The pages, who hail from Norfolk Academy Middle School (Gillyan Blais, Karl Diamonstein, Sophie Kidd, Dominique Manuel, Nia Carter) and Marquville High School in Tennessee (Dean Zacharias, Mac Khonle), have the task of delivering notes between committees and aiding in the organization of the conference. The staff of the Model UN Conference is like seams in a quilt- without them, the inter-workings and functions of the conference of a whole would tear apart.

Many of the younger pages decided to be involved in the conference to widen their knowledge and perspective on world events; however because of their age, they cannot participate as delegates in the conference. Working as a page also serves as a way to observe how the MUN functions and “how all the committees work together,” Mac Khonle commented.

Employment as a page is a choice, as well; page Dean Zacharias remarked that he wished to be a page so that he could be more involved in the conference, as opposed to being a delegate for a small country, and not speaking much.

Being a page can also be an entertaining task. Pages often find doodlings and off-topic scribbles instead of vital messages among the notes they are entrusted with the care of. Pages often find tic-tac toe games between delegates, illustrations, and even comments directed towards other delegates and pages. Zacharias mentioned he received a note that complimented him on his vivid scarlet dress pants; conclusively, always respect your local page- they may just mess up your next tic-tac toe game.

Twitter Feed

**WANT TO SEE YOUR
TWEETS AND PIC-
TURES HERE?**

**TELL US WHAT'S HAPPEN-
ING IN YOUR COMMITTEE
AND FOLLOW THE REST OF
THE ACTION ALL WEEKEND
LONG**

**TO INTERACT
THROUGHOUT
THE CONFERENCE,
FOLLOW**

**@ODUMUNC35
#ODUMUNC**

**THE BEST TWEETS WILL
GET RETWEETED, POSTED
HERE IN LATER ISSUES, AND
POSSIBLY WIN PRIZES!**

Funny jokes?

Words of wisdom?

Awkward moments?

Share it with us and we'll post
them as quotes of the day.

*Submissions can be sent to Wilton Room on
the 4th Floor*

*If you've got any
doodles or
masterpieces,
don't hide them
from the rest of
us!*

*Share it with IPC
and we'll pick some
of the favorites
to feature in the
next issue!*

**Lost your name
tag?**

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Note:

If you have lost, damaged,
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