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# THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION

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## From waging war to writing peace

by Brenda Sprouse

The Great War started off with a bang. At the beginning the first session both the Central and the Entente powers were taxed with pressing international issues. The Central Powers immediately put their focus on creating a cease-fire on the west Russian border while managing the needs of the people as the British blockade caused food shortages throughout the continent.

These shortages led to munitions worker strikes and riots in Germany. To address this, the delegates chose to bring in restricted submarine warfare and send IRA insurgents to harass the British fleets in hopes of breaking the blockade.

When these tactics failed, the Central Powers put into action Operation Poison taco (an interesting spin off of the Zimmerman Telegram) at the suggestion of Mehmed V, and the plan resulted in the United States joining the Great War.

Meanwhile, the Entente powers presented a treaty to Austria-Hungary asking for a separate peace, which Austria-Hungary rejected and instead chose to stay with the Central Powers.

Saturday began with the search for peace. The mass casualties and widespread munitions strikes forced the delegates to come together as equals and to forge a peace treaty. With the support of Great Britain, Czar Nicholas regained control of the Russian monarchy. However, during this overthrow, the rest of the committee agreed to have the blockade lifted and to ban the use of chemical warfare. After the Czar regained power, a revolution began within Russia, ultimately leading to the death of the Czar Nicholas, and the solidification of power to Vladimir Lenin.

In Ireland, an outraged response to the mistreatment given by the United Kingdom demanded immediate self-determination, which was ultimately granted. In the treaty proposed by Woodrow Wilson, Ireland and Canada were freed from British rule, while the delegates representing the Ottoman Empire dealt with the Caliphate Army. After promptly placating the now independent Arab state, the British colonies of India has begun to show signs of revolt.

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## Delegates Involved in NGO

by Watson Swail

In 2008, FSC delegate Mark Jamias was traveling with the NGO People to People International. Upon his return to Norfolk, he realized that Hampton Roads did not have a chapter of the organization. By 2009, a freshman Mark had started People to People International Hampton Roads. The chapter has since grown to include about 30 students at Norfolk Collegiate and is growing.

People to People International was founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and seeks to achieve “peace through understanding” through a combination of raising cultural awareness, humanitarian aid and community programs. Now, People to People has activity in 135 countries across the globe helping communities and families.

Mark says the work they do domestic and abroad is “a step above humanitarianism” meaning that while they do send traditional humanitarian aid in the form of care packages and community restoration, they also offer something intangible; cultural understanding through support of cultural organizations and community work. Internationally, the Hampton Roads chapter sends aid to countries like Nepal and Columbia. They are also heavily involved in the local community through clean-up programs and homeless missions like Oasis Social Ministries in Portsmouth, Virginia. Culturally, they are involved with such projects as ODU’s Filipino American Center and NATO cultural outings.

In addition to Mark, delegates Reid Wilkinson, Emma Stell, Victor Layne, Tanner Hirschfeld (Norfolk Collegiate) are all officers for the chapter. More information on People to People’s Hampton Roads Chapter can be found on their facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/ptpihrsc>

## Impacting Students and the World

The ODUMUNC sales this year serves both students and charities. 10% of all conference memorabilia, candy, and roses sales will be donated to the charity, In Support of Children. Managed by ODU’s Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, the organization seeks to prevent violence against children all over the world. Delegates have the opportunity of supporting this charity’s efforts through their purchases at the sales table at ODUMUNC36. Show your support and care for children’s welfare against abuse.

For more information about the charity, please visit <http://al.odu.edu/sociology/isoc/index.shtml>

*In Support Of Children*



**It's NEVER okay to HIT A CHILD**

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## Committee Updates

### SpecPol

In the late hours of Friday night, SpecPol rigorously debated and voted on six draft resolutions via a combination of amendments and compromises. Two of the resolutions were passed with large majorities.

As of this morning the delegates have been exploring hybrid peacekeeping and possible military intervention to end the genocide in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### SocHum

SocHum went straight into the debate of addressing methods for achieving national self-determination. Going at a faster pace than Friday, the committee was able to get more concrete ideas and proposed solutions in the form of working papers onto the table for presentation. Surprisingly, more countries were willing to collaborate than they were the previous day.

### Legal

*contributions from Sidney Anop (Delegate of the United States) and Thomas Caver (Delegate of Sweden)*

This year, the General Assembly Sixth Committee, otherwise known as the Legal Committee, focuses their debate on issues currently quite popular in the news. Drone attacks and piracy are among the topics needing to be addressed by the committee, and satisfying countries' objectives while remaining compliant with current international laws has been the challenge. While most certainly a serious and tedious committee, the delegates have been cooperating in order to keep the atmosphere both interesting and less stressful.

The committee devoted the first part of Friday to the reevaluation of unmanned drone attacks, a military technology currently favored by the countries for counterterrorism strategies. Given the relative newness of the use of drones, delegates concerned over its abuse met in order to investigate the validity of past drone attacks and establish a standard. The decision reached has ultimately set a new standard of international law for drone attacks in an

attempt to satisfactorily address most of the represented countries' concerns.

Currently, the committee now hones its focus on the defining legal authority with regards to international piracy. Again delegates find it difficult to find a compromise pleasing the majority, and the debate goes back and forth, occasionally swaying delegates to the idea of furthering compromise in favor of humanitarian goals versus those of their respective countries.

### NGO

*contributed by Rose Hancock (Delegate of the Human Rights Watch)*

Today in the NGO Forum, the topic of discussion revolved around post conflict development in terms of aiding war-torn states. The committee was surprisingly cooperative with each other. There were two draft resolutions spearheaded by the Health Rights International and Friends of the Earth organizations. One resolution focused on health and rehabilitation and the other focused on rebuilding infrastructure. The strategy used by the delegates helped to smooth out and move along the resolution process.

After lunch, the organizations presented their work, and the committee made many friendly amendments to both draft resolutions. Most delegations find themselves in agreement within this committee, so it is the hope that both resolutions will be passed.

### HRC

Last night's debate over Guantanamo Bay ended with the decision to implement ideas such as the creation of a special ICC tribunal to ensure due process for all alleged international terror suspects. A new debate has since ensued over the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which includes civil war, child soldiers, abuse against women and general human rights violations.

Debate was interrupted at one point with a delayed, heartfelt serenade and rose delivery

Despite the brief comic relief (of which there is photo and video footage of), the delegations quickly got back on track with three resolutions now in the works. Voting on these draft resolutions is expected to be done soon.

### DISEC

After dealing with a handful of roll call voting procedures, the DISEC committee was able to pass resolutions eliminating illicit small arms trading. Now, the delegates are discussing what can be considered permissible responses to cyber terrorism. The delegates express an increased amount of enthusiasm towards the new topic, hopefully indicating that a decision may be reached sooner for this issue. Many working papers have been presented, and all show signs of promise. The second topic is projected to conclude more smoothly and possibly before the end of today's final session.

### ECOSOC

Today we continued our topic revolving around creating foundations for sustained development and peace. Four draft resolutions addressing this issue were put up for voting. One of them was proposed by several countries proclaiming universal nuclear weapons. It was presented in an attempt to end all future warfare; by guaranteeing mutual destruction if any conflict occurs. The draft resolution did not pass, but another resolution presented was supported by the NGO forum. It gave assistance to struggling nations through aid from NGOs.

We have since moved on to discuss post conflict development, particularly of war-torn nations. The committee is currently working on this issue, with draft resolutions and working papers in progress.

## Islam and the West

by Ashwin Murali

The faculty meetings are a chance for the staff members, faculty, sponsors, and anyone who is interested in contemporary global affairs to hear a plethora of speakers talk about topics of concern. Dr. Scott Girdner, who teaches Islamic and Christian traditions in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Old Dominion University, was invited to present an overview of relations between Islamic and Western culture.

According to Girdner, boundaries, in general, are used to organize values and identities, regardless of the culture. Girdner stressed that this purpose is a marked commonality in Western and Islamic tradition. He went on to explain that both Islam and the West strive to connect consensus with contemporary issues. "Both cultures believe that that action is inevitable while legitimacy is debatable." Girdner also dispelled the common viewpoint that the tenets of Islam could be effectively condensed into the Five Pillars, emphasizing that it is much more than that.

Another interesting tidbit in the presentation included the results of a recent Gallup poll, which indicated that nearly 93% of Muslims reject violence, specifically the 9/11 attacks. Moreover, Girdner affirmed the fact that education truly is the greatest equalizer, stating that a solid education gives Muslims, like Westerners, the ability and knowledge to understand the benefits and setbacks of Islamic tradition, what does and doesn't work. Girdner explained that the core problem attached to the Westernized stigma attached to Islam is based on the fact that Westerners are uncomfortable with the notion of Muslims being capable of recognizing good from bad. He also noted that Western tradition associates Jihad with "holy war" when, in reality, the Qur'an advocates that Jihad is a word of justice spoken to a tyrant. To end with, if there was one key point that could be taken away from Girdner's presentation, it was the misconception that people have towards the tenets of Islam, accentuating that Islam is characterized by a rich culture. He attested that "the classic answer by most is that the tenets of Islam can be condensed into the Five Pillars. It's truly a pity because Islamic culture is so much more than that."

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## Crisis in Crisis (Committees – FSC and SC)

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### FSC

by Abby Musser

There is no rest for the Future Security Council. After resolving the issue of the wheat blight, the FSC had to respond quickly to an epidemic called the Tummy Ache Virus (TAV) in Russia and Canada. The epidemic turned into a pandemic affecting nations like Brazil, China, Cuba, France and the United States. Brazil had the most cases of TAV. Later, the Eco-terrorist group called the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) claimed responsibility for the pandemic, a response to the Brazilian government's questionable decision to cut the Amazon rainforest and replace it with crops. Along with the pandemic, ELF has destroyed hospitals in Moscow, Rio de Janeiro, and Ottawa. Notable victims of the pandemic include Exxon's Ray Lemond, BP's CEO Bob Dudley and Michael A. Friedman, the president of Monsanto. So far the pandemic has killed 50,000 people. Cuba had a proposal in which a taskforce using resources from nations in the FSC would research TAV was passed.

Throughout all this, certain nations had to deal with their own problems. Fiji, a nation who advertises eco-friendly habits was discovered to have been drilling oil offshore. An agent of Brazil was sent to spy on ELF but ultimately joined it instead.

It is unclear what direction the FSC will go with ELF interactions and whether a cure for TAV will be found. All that is left is to wait and see.

### SC

by Tom Jacobs

This morning, taking advantage of a ceasefire between Syria and Turkey and the outbreak of conflict between Kurdish separatists in Iraq, delegates chose to focus on facilitating peace talks to end any conflict between Syria and Turkey.

China and Russia sought a quicker, temporary solution through an ad hoc committee to mediate peace between Syria and Turkey. A more long term presence was pushed by the powers of United Kingdom, United States, and France, in which a permanent regional committee was to oversee relations in the Middle East. Pakistan and other focused on a more regional approach to finding peace.

Delegates were actively engaged in compromising until a new crisis was released to the committee; Russian spies had been discovered in the U.S. State Department. This wrecked negotiations and created tension between the two nations. Fortunately, they were able to refocus on the topic of Middle Eastern peace though China slowed progress, failing to pass the resolution.

During the voting procedure, SC had sent for representatives of Syria and Turkey to hold peace talks in the committee. However, they were locked out of the committee room during voting. Both representatives were forced to leave before the SC reopened and were very displeased at the apparent lack of concern. They responded with an end to the tentative ceasefire and demanded that the SC make amends.

The SC acted quickly, and the UN Ambassador from Syria and the Head Peace Negotiator for Turkey met with them to discuss the issues. Attempts to reconcile between the ambassadors were mildly successful, and they left relatively appeased, but they were adamant in their unwillingness to look into peace at the current time. The SC has been left scrambling for a new way to address the Kurdish Separatist uprising as Iraq descends further into turmoil.