
THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION

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ODUMUNC XXXIV

FEBRUARY 18TH, 2011

Opening Ceremony Kick-starts ODUMUNC XXXIV

by Alex Yarbrough



“Be the change that you want to see in the world.” No other quote could better prepare and encourage the delegates for this year’s conference. At the opening ceremony for the thirty-fourth session of the Old Dominion University Model United Nations Conference, Secretary General Adam Bullock welcomed the delegates and faculty and encouraged all present enjoy the weekend. Bullock expressed his hope that delegates would use the opportunity to reflect upon the ways in which

each individual can change and influence the world. Key note speaker ODU professor Simon Serfaty also challenged delegates to truly adopt the perspectives of the states that each school represents. Serfaty acknowledged that the delegates have the unique opportunity to meet during a great geopolitical transition within the international community. The international shift toward greater interdependence is a transition which the delegates must consider when adopting their new foreign principles. Serafty conveyed his supreme optimism that the delegates of the ODUMUNC XXXIV would aspire to become the generation that solves the coming conflicts of a changing world.

Photo credit: Megan Morrow

To Be or Not to Be: The Great Debate of California

by Tyla Bush

The U.S Senate remains divided regarding the status of California. Should California be considered to be a part of the United States or should it be its own independent territory? Democrats stand in favor of California’s transition to a state, while the Whigs remain unsure.

According to Senator James Shields, Democrat of Illinois, “California should be admitted for the reason that the people of California have migrated to west. These people put their investments into the land of California. So if the citizens of the U.S. have moved to this state, why not count it?”

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The California Question

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John Berrien, a Whig from Georgia, stands in opposition. According to Senator Berrien, "California isn't organized enough to be admitted... California will be economically unable to support growing populations."

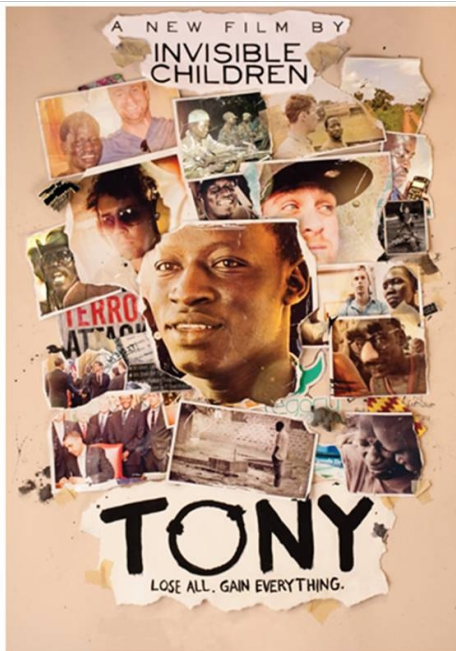
The indecision and opposing views within the Whig party frustrates the ability of the senate to reach a conclusion. Should California have a say in whether it is admitted or should the new territory be automatically included as a slave state? No matter the conclusion, momentous repercussions await for the new territory of California.



Norfolk, Virginia (Hampton Roads)

Invisible Children +
PTPI's HRSC present
"TONY"
part of the Congo Tour

March 4 @ 7:00 pm
Norfolk Collegiate
Upper School Gym



SALE!

2010 T-Shirts.....\$12
Backpack.....\$10
Padfolios.....\$15
Bamboo Pens.....\$7
Lanyards.....\$3
Bracelets.....\$3
Embossed Pens.....\$4
Assorted Candy....\$1

Get your
ODUMUNC
souvenirs before the
rush!

The sales table is located
outside of the
International
Ballroom
(where the
GA Commit-
tees are)



Announcements

- Curfew is at **midnight** for all delegates.
- Please wear your name tag when inside the hotel. **DO NOT** wear the name badge when walking outside.
- Turn off **all electronics** during sessions
- Buy a t-shirt and you get to wear it on Saturday instead of your business attire.
- Check out the sales table for other souvenirs!
- You need your **name tag** to get into the dance.
- Please remember to dress appropriately!
- Friday's movie selection: *Despicable Me*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, or *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World*
- Saturday's session is a competition between all councils to raise the most money for our chosen charities, IAEA and In Support of Children!!

N O V A C C I N E N E E D E D : how to prevent the nametag loss epidemic

by Megan Morrow

The coming of warmer weather for this year's Old Dominion University Model United Nations Conference has caused the fear of flu season to be replaced with the fear of a more elusive, yet highly probable epidemic: name badge loss. With the conference just one day in, the number of students with lost name badges is nearing 20, a staggering figure for name badges worn by some of the world's greatest analytical minds.

Who is to blame for this epidemic? Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Amanda Armstrong speculates that the problem comes from the same lovely weather that conference-goers are lauding.

"The culprit is...articles of clothing that are too thin," says Armstrong, adding that she "blame[s] the clothing industry" for the lack of substantial fabric. She continues, claiming that one rather fashionable female lost her nametag after affixing it to the flimsy fabric of her sweater. The victim of the loss later claimed that the nametag simply "fell off".

This hapless female was not the only one to experience the sting of losing her nametag. Others have come into the Secretary-Treasurer's office for replacements, and no one is feeling the sting like the office itself.

"[We're] printing like crazy [and] trying to keep up with demand," says Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Johnson.

The ST's office may get a bit of a break soon, or at least some hard-earned cash. Starting Friday, all name badge replacements will be two dollars. Armstrong hopes that this will "encourage students to wear appropriate clothing and keep better track of their name badges."

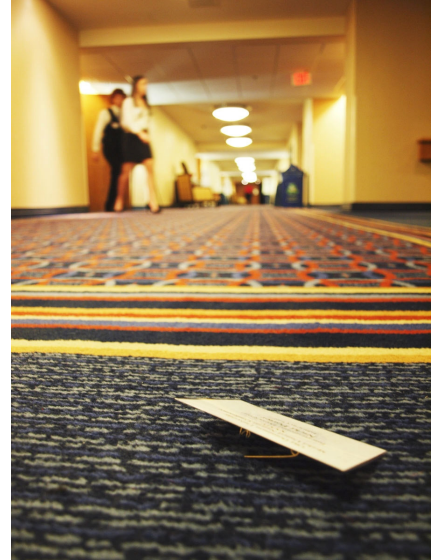


Photo credit: Megan Morrow

A DAY IN THE LIFE...

...of an ODUMUNC page

Female Page: Ugh, I've been dealing with high schoolers all day.

Friend: But...*you're* about to be in high school.

Female page: But I won't be an annoying high school boy!"

ODUMUNC IPC Staff says....

They pass your notes.

They're on their feet all day.

They deal with annoying high school boys.

Have you thanked your pages today?

ODUMUNC BY THE NUMBERS

Delegates..... 850

Advisors..... 57

Staff..... 60

Pages..... 30

BEHIND THE DAIS:

Perspectives from your committee staff

NGO FORUM:

The NGO committee hit the ground running. The committee focused on millennium developmental goals during the first sessions. Ideas and working papers are abundant within the room and hopes are high that such a momentous start will result in more cooperation. The compassion of the delegates in the NGO forum is truly inspiring and the dais knows that those present of the committee will truly be influential leaders even after they leave the conference.

We also want to give a special shout out to Luke who fixed our air conditioning and brought us a working stopwatch!

DISEC:

The DISEC committee showed enormous promise during their first session during the conference. The session was filled with heated debates, successful negotiations, and some rather unexpected developments. The debates never resolved peacefully or unanimously. The delegates spoke with passion and vehemently defended their positions, which often resulted in votes so close that they required second counts. The dais gladly encouraged the controversial debates as the delegates attempted to find a feasible solution for the menace of cyberterrorism. Most notably, the Philippines arose as a leader of discussion in the initial sessions. Their leadership is proof that any country, no matter its status, has the ability to be an influential member of world politics. The session ended with pages flying across the floor in their attempt to deliver the multitude of notes as the final showdown ensued. Chad and Brazil both fought to make their opinions heard and the dais only hopes that the same passion grips the discussions of the second day.

PLENARY:

Plenary started the conference with a bang! Over 20 countries immediately participated and cooperated to develop a resolution to provide relief for the disastrous flood that hit Pakistan. Despite initial difficulties, the committee shows immense promise and the dais are confident that the delegates possess the knowledge and ability to provide truly astounding results.

The dais of the Plenary considered the first day of the conference to be an immeasurable success and is eagerly looking forward to tomorrow's sessions. Though the conference is barely underway, the dais has great belief that the delegates are not only working toward a better conference but are also hoping to serve the current generation in an effort to provide peace and structure in a changing world.

ECOSOC:

Unfortunately, a multinational stalemate entangled the delegates of ECOSOC during the first day of the conference. After hurdling some initial hesitations and insecurities the committee began to debate furiously. Though the discussion did not reach a finalized conclusion by the end of the second session, the dais is hopeful that the second day will glean more results.

While no finite decisions arose from the committee on the first day, some memorable quotes certainly did...

"You skipped my country bro" – Oman.

"Umm, yeah I'm sure no one wants to be poor, hungry, or dead"- Saudi Arabia.

"Any Nation that feels wronged by the UN, come over here" Russian fed.

"The ground make my chair fall"-Oman

If you want to see your quotes in tomorrow's paper, make sure you send them to the IPC reporters in the Wilton Room on the fourth floor!

Legal

Like most first sessions for general assemblies, the committee began with a break down of rules and procedures. Though phrases like “division of question” and “creation of amendments” may be daunting for first time attendees, the delegates seemed to learn quickly. Several delegates showed enthusiasm for the topics at hand, but an unfortunate amount of unrest and unruliness abounded later in the meeting. The dais was disappointed with the decorum of delegates who did not take discussions seriously, left the room for inappropriate lengths of time, used electronics during sessions, and passed improper notes to each other. The dais sincerely hopes that other delegates follow the leads of Bolivia and the United Kingdom so that more resolutions can be created.

SOCHUM: Dueling Perspectives

I.

The Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM) did not waste any time to begin delving into the Model United Nations experience. Child Slavery earned the top spot on the docket after winning favor over the few who felt immigration should be the initial issue. There were at least 96 ideas, one for every represented nation, on how to resolve this issue. After a few hours of collaboration and many, many moderated caucuses, six resolutions were pieced together; each with a different approach to the problem at hand. They ranged from massive resource allocation to the formation of an international watchdog organization, to a pair that supported intense child labor. From the humanitarian-minded west who would have no part in the utilization of children for labor to the developing nations who depend on the work done by even the youngest of their citizens in order to keep progressing. Though this issue is drawing nearer to the point of approved legislation, it has been made apparent today that SOCHUM will not settle for cookie cutter solutions. There is a lot to look forward to as this committee begins work on the rest of the weekend’s topics, but one thing is already apparent: these delegates will be limited by nothing short of their own innovation.

Future Security Council:

The Future Today!

(or)

Those Gosh Darn Natural Disasters

Yellowstone blew up. It sucked, but it was awesome that the security council came together to give aid to the United States in order to help it recover. Shortly after the aid came, some stupid earthquake decided to be a jerk and strike Chile. This caused a bunch of innocent people from Chile to flee to Argentina. Everything would have been awesome except for the fact that some criminals decided to rain on everyone’s parade by kidnapping these poor people in order to try and turn them into sex slaves. Between hammering out the details of American aid and keeping Chile from starting a war in South America, the council was kept extremely busy. Eventually, we started getting somewhere. The delegates’ demand for the Argentina and Paraguay’s representative took forever. The delegates were pretty happy that they didn’t have to sanction and ransack the countries as Argentina and Paraguay came and complied. The delegates were able to pass four resolutions in attempts to the Yellowstone crisis and the Chilean disaster relief. Throughout these sessions, we were visited with multiple crisis update visits.

The surprising thing is that there are no wars (yet) despite the complete withdrawal of American forces from the world. Hopefully they start attacking one another.

II.

The dais of SOCHUM would like to express our supreme pleasure in sitting in with the delegates during the first day. The delegates made it clear by the end of the first session that they were here to be professional and expedient. The committee focused on discussions regarding child slavery during the first session and truly invested time and energy into the prospect of creating feasible solutions. The longer the committee remained in session, the more delegates were able to operate with ease and confidence. The dais was excited to see such involved debates and looks forward to the coming sessions for more solutions. The dais would like to leave one final note for the delegates of SOCHUM: watch your demeanor.

A NOTE TO CONFERENCE DELEGATES

...from the ODUMUNC Staff

Most of you are really awesome. You're working hard. You're using diplomacy. You know your country's policy. You're on the ball.

A *few* of you are abusing our conference note policies.

The pages have one of the most tiring and underappreciated jobs at this conference. Don't waste their time with inappropriate notes.

Your pages will screen your notes, and if they're inappropriate, they'll give them to your chairs. Your chairs will revoke note privileges if they have to.

So think twice about passing a Djibouti call. It may end up being read aloud by your chair.

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FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

ODUMUNC HAS OFFI-
CALLY ENTERED THE
21ST CENTURY.

Follow the conference
on Twitter at
@ODUMUNC and track
the conference through
the hashtag
#ODUMUNC2011.

TREND IT!

On-the-Floor Reporting

**Did something funny hap-
pen in your committee?**

Come tell IPC about it!

**We're in the Wilton Room
on the fourth floor.**

#ODUMUNC2011 Pics of the Day

Photos: Megan Morrow



SOCHUM brings a new meaning to "double delegation".



USG Courtney Johnston documents SG Adam Bullock's nap time.



Hungry? No problem! France brought plenty of bread for breaking to Security Council.

Op-Ed

What Not to Wear

Megan Morrow

"I'm a Serious Delegate"

Rose Padilla



Opinions expressed in "The Chair's Discretion" are strictly those of the authors and creators, not of Old Dominion University, ODU Model United Nations, or related entities.

The warm trend throughout the mid-Atlantic also caused a trend in the fashion arena here at ODUMUNC. Hems rose with the temperature and ties loosened like conference rules on Saturday.

Here at ODUMUNC, the staff would like to consider the delegates their peers. As such, we feel no qualms telling our peer if her shirt is too low or if his shorts belong at a gym rather than in a business atmosphere. Consider this a kind way of learning your lesson before your first professional interview for a job, scholarship, or school.

My sorority big sister, who is a self-proclaimed fashionista and Polly Pocket look-a-like, had one favorite quote: "leggings are not pants". I can only assume that this is best used at a conference designed to make you look more professional, not like you have a personal cooling system in the form of a short skirt or a half-unbuttoned oxford.

If there's one quote that I can leave for you, it's this simple mantra that will get you through practically every situation in life: "dress for the role you want". Believe me, if you dress the way you want to be perceived, we'll perceive you as such. We're easy like that.