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Model United Nations
Winthrop College

BY KATHY KIRKPATRICK

The major purpose of Model U.N. at Winthrop is to provide an opportunity for high school students to learn about the functioning of the United Nations and to develop critical thinking skills. The conference is designed to be a simulation of the UN, with participants representing different countries and agencies. The conference is open to students from around the world, and it is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious Model UN conferences. The conference typically takes place over a few days, with participants attending meetings, debates, and workshops to develop their understanding of global issues. The conference is a great opportunity for students to learn about international relations and to develop their skills in public speaking, diplomacy, and teamwork.
No Nation Stands Alone

BY SUDIE TAYLOR

While no man is an island, no nation stands alone either. We are all in the human race together.

These sentiments were the basis of the Model U.N. Social and Humanitarian Concerns panel discussion Thursday, April 20 in Drakins Auditorium.

Probing issues such as aid to under-developed nations, human rights and overpopulation were fielded by the panel consisting of Dr. Vail, president of Winthrop College, Mr. Abuah, U.N. delegate from Nigeria and Father Valtierra, a Catholic priest. Each of these complex issues were delved into only superficially in the two-hour discussion. It was evident that easy-workable solutions are increasingly difficult to obtain.

Each of the trio accepted the premise of the global interdependence. Our 4.3 billion member planet necessitates interdependence for survival. Some well-developed nations, like our own United States, are nearly self-sustaining. Others, such as the third world nations, cannot survive without outside aid. The question that naturally follows is what responsibility do the well-developed nations have to the under-developed ones?

President Vail tackled this one with the claim of altruism. Those who send aid are "those with the capacity to deliver," he commented. President Vail's four reasons we should help under-developed nations is because there is a need, education demands it, to feed their own economic development, and to give problem prevention.

Mr. Abuah answered the aid question disturbingly. He wondered if our aid to under-developed nations was not as a bribe for our own economic greed. Many under-developed nations supply developed ones with necessary raw supplies. Selfish nations are in fact raping the natural resources of lesser developed ones. Again, Mr. Abuah stressed that it is a battle between the "haves and the have nots." The have feel it is their supreme duty to control and make decisions for the have nots.

Father Valtierra had his own criteria of responsibilities for the developed nations. First, he felt it was our duty to end colonization. Secondly, it was time we questioned and reexamined our development theory. Thirdly, we owe them a model of liberation. "It is their right to consider their own destiny, political and economic," the Father emphasized.

In America, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" are easily taken for granted, but elsewhere human rights are a struggling issue. The group listed the basic rights of association, education, security, food, a healthy environment, resources and religious freedom as those which should be universally adhered to.

For Mr. Abuah, the human rights issue was close to home, especially in the nearly "fester ing sore of the South African tip." The Nigerian diplomat pointed out that "fair wages, employment, and the right to engage in collective bargaining or trade unions" are denied black workers there. "The black worker is moved from his homeland to an area of forced labor," informs Mr. Abuah. While basic rights are being suppressed, while officials try to alleviate the problem with superficial solutions, "Integration in the restaurants and restrooms isn't enough," demanded Mr. Abuah.

While our planet's population increases alarmingly, living space and food diminish rapidly. Some feel massive birth control is the answer. Father Valtierra combated this solution stating that "forced sterilization without regard to culture is a form of imperialism." His solution lies in higher employment, upgraded housing and medical aid in these highly populated areas. Better living conditions, he hypothesizes, will lower the birth rate.

As the discussion closed, no significant solution to our world's social and humanitarian concerns had been reached. Many pressing questions lied unanswered, many important issues were unexplored. One concern that the panel did mention was awareness - an essential element to all problem solving. Unescapable problems do exist; countries need aid, people lack human rights, and there is overpopulation. These claims cannot be denied, even if man prefers to be an island and his nation insists on standing alone.

Survival is dependent on another. The human race must heed this and stand together, or deny it and fall alone.

Delegates preparing to do business at the second Winthrop College Model United Nations. There were over 225 high school students participating. (Photo by Joel Nichols)

Winthrop student Donna Clemmer accepts an award from Don Unscheber, SGA President-elect, for outstanding representation of South Africa in the Model United Nations. (Photo by Joel Nichols)

Canadian diplomat Geoffrey Bruce confers with members of the high school delegation representing his country. (Photo by Joel Nichols)

Ralph Johnson, Chairperson of the Social and Humanitarian Committee, confers with one of the delegates during a recess of the Committee. (Photo by A.P. Smith)
Panel Debate: World Economic Order

BY DIANE SAWYER

Alan Rash, coordinator of the first MTSU panel, opened the panel discussion on World Economic Order, April 21. Rash, a Winthrop University professor, initiated the discussion by introducing the other panel members and briefly sketching their backgrounds. The other members included Mr. David Dornany, Vice-President and head of the Board of North Carolina Mr. Geoffrey Bruce, former ambassador to the United Nations and current research fellow at the Harvard Institute of Foreign Affairs, and Rancy McSpaden, Presbyterian campus minister for the Winthrop Campus Ministry. Each panel member then gave a brief speech explaining their view on world economies.

Mr. Dornany opened the discussion. His speech concerned the devastating effect of the third world nations and the continuing struggle of the countries of the world to overcome its dependency on oil. He emphasized the dependence of the world on the oil-producing countries and their control on the price of oil, therefore their direct influence on the overall world economy. He also spoke about the effect of the inconsistency of the American policy on the rest of the world’s economy, that using an unstable world currency is a bad way to base the world’s economy on.

Mr. Bruce, having an ambassadorial experience with the US in the third world, was concerned about the belief that the third world nations would always look to the first world nations to solve their problems. He emphasized the responsibility of the developed nations of the world to share not just their money but also their scientific and technological advances with the third world nations so that they will have an equal opportunity to better their economic status in the world trade. Mr. Bruce also said that the nations of the world have a responsibility to view the world’s resources economically and sensibly and to consider the third world’s needs also. He ended by re-emphasizing the need of the developed nations for the third world nations because they are a vital factor in world trade.

Dr. Melord Wilson, professor of political science, has been at Winthrop for eleven years. He has been in Pakistan, India and Japan. He is presently running for the Rock Hill City Council. Dr. Wilson concentrated his speech on the behavior of the United Nations and how it is connected to the role the United Nations plays in the relationship with the International System. He said that the United Nations has been a great education to its first two pupils, the United Nations and the Soviet Union, which were distrustful of the International System.

"A great job has been done in educating these powers. The United States has developed into a global power that shows a little more restraint than it has in the past in relations to provocations," said Wilson. "The United Nations is a place where the forthcoming of a sovereign nation can be discussed and some attempt made to try to alleviate them, and I look to see this to continue throughout the next 32 years because of that. I have great hopes for the United Nations as it will deal with the new problems that will confront the world you live in."

The final panel member to speak was Kandy McSpaden. His appeal was to the developed nations to help the underdeveloped nations by helping to develop their farming, and to meet their need for the basics of life. He spoke about how the United Nations is helping the needy nations through programs sponsored through the channel of the UN program.

After the opening statements, Mr. Rash directed specific questions to each panel member. Some of the questions were: What is the economic integration of the developed world against the undeveloped world? What example could you cite of where businessmen are coming down to realize that there is something more important than trying to make a profit? And what is the role of the religious community in terms of economic system?

The final panel question was: Can the countries of the third world attain U.S. standards of living and is it an admirable goal and is it possible? Mr. Dornany replied that the thought was admirable and possible.

The discussion continued with questions being directed to the panel members from the delegates. Several questions included the practicality of establishing a world currency, and would Yugoslavia’s economy survive after President Tito’s death?

The discussions was very informative and each panel member contributed greatly to establishing an overall view of the world economic order.

Problems Facing The United Nations & The World

BY RALPH JOHNSON

The United Nations, and the world at large, face four major problems that threaten world peace and security. The four are: the situation in the Middle East; the disarmament problem; the rivalry between the two superpowers and the current energy crisis. Unites does with, adequately and soon, these situations could easily erupt into a world-wide conflict.

The conflict in the Middle East is an old and ceaseless struggle between the Jewish and the Arabs. For thirty years, this area of the world has been a source of internecine strife and countless deaths. Recently, however, these seem to have been replaced by a quest for peace in this war-com mess. With President Awar Sadat’s bold move, a new phase was opened in the Middle East story. Currently stalled in a gamut of bureaucracy, age-old hatreds and mistrust, the newest peace proposals are indicative of Arab determination. The Egyptians will settle for no less than full recovery of all Israel held Arab territories. Israel will bear nothing of the pre-army state; there are numerous Israeli settlements that dot captured lands. The United Nations, one of the stick figures of this situation, is yet to be seen.

The disarmament problem carries with it, of its own particular brand of problems. Currently, the two superpowers of the United States and the Soviet Union are being continually probed by the United Nations to install their capability to destroy the world seventy times over. This testing, of course, is made possible by the tremendous amount of armament. The total armament is a secret shadowed by the fact that the arms race is still in full swing.

The third problem, the energy crisis, is one where the United States and the Soviet Union are constantly seeking to increase their spheres of influence throughout the world. This influence rivalry will, if not checked, bring the two powers to face to face in a dangerous confrontation. The whole problem stems around the fact that the United States and the Soviet Union are trying to counter each other in a one-upmanship game that can only lead to disaster. The United States feels that it must curtail Soviet influence in order to preserve the world’s democracy, and the Soviet Union is committed to its world-wide hegemonic presence. These two differing ideologies are threatening to bring us again to war.

It is not surprising to note that on President Carter’s recent trip to Iran and Saudi Arabia (our two major sources of oil imports) that the leaders of these countries were concerned over the fact that the United States has no energy policy. The whole idea of a crisis in natural resources has finally been realized. Petroleum resources are currently being consumed at an alarming rate by western countries. The Nations of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have already shown what a weapon oil can be. The question is whether we as Americans will sit by and watch our industry and business be hurt and possibly destroyed by another boycott. The question is left to the individual to answer, but ponder this: The West German Army has staged war maneuvers on desert like conditions and there have been reports of other nations having plans to capture and seize oil fields in their “Top Secret” files. Our consumption and waste of fossil fuels must take a drastic cut if we are to survive.

These are just four of the problems that face the United Nations and consequently the world. There are still those problems of the third and fourth world countries and the problems in South Africa and Rhodesia—but, as a fact, the world is stocked full of little problems. All of these problems must be dealt with. Hopefully, they will not grow as the others have into larger problems.
The U.N. Experience

BY SYDNEY A. BREEZE

David Collins, a senior from Myrtle Beach High School, Myrtle Beach, S.C., was one of the many high school students participating in the Winthrop College Model United Nations, April 19-22.

David, sitting in a black tux with tails and white tie, after having attended the closing banquet, gave the impression that he knew exactly what he was doing and where he was going. In fact, when asked about his future plans, he immediately stated that he intended to major in political science at the College of Charleston, then do his graduate work at George Washington at Georgetown University.

This year wasn’t the first time that David had participated in the Winthrop Model U.N. Last year he was a member of the Myrtle Beach delegation, which won third place. This year, he “really got turned on to it,” he said, according to a report from the John Burk Society, which stresses that the U.S. should get out of the United Nations. David felt that he was well organized and that the secretaries did a really great job. He also mentioned that it was “good news” because the banquet was much better this year. “We had refried beans last year. This year we had steak.”

David said that the first time he went to the Winthrop U.N., he “just walked in” and “I was so nervous and felt silly.” He felt that it was better this year because there were more students involved.

David said that the sources of his information came from friends and that a lot of good times went on. “People came around at three o’clock in the morning to get you to support your group.” But during the times they were representing their countries, the “vast majority,” said David, “stayed totally in character.”

Speaking about his Winthrop College Model United Nations experience, David said, “It’s really been an enlightening and enjoyable experience. I’d like to contribute the overwhelming success to Karl Fokens, the secretary, and the steering committee (who made the plans from the beginning).”

If he could, would he like to do it again? The answer is obvious.

“If of course.”

Frances Hall won the first place award in the Social and Humanitarian Committee, Saturday, April 22 in Tillman Auditorium.

THE NEXT 32 YEARS

BY ELLEN DODD

Dr. Melford Wilson, Dr. Birdsell Viault and Mr. Henning Kjeldgaard addressed members of the Model United Nations about the next 32 years in the United Nations on Thursday, April 20, 1978.

Mr. Henning Kjeldgaard, Counselor of the Embassy for the Permanent Mission of Denmark, the first to address the students, commented on what he thought the United Nations would accomplish during the rest of the century.

“Let me just say that what has really influenced the United Nations for the last 10 years has of course been the fact that the developing countries (countries which have sometimes been under direct or indirect foreign rule) but have been free of them politically throughout the 1960’s. These developing countries have simply had an enormous influence on how the United Nations is functioning.

Mr. Kjeldgaard stated that the major aim of the United Nations has in effect been to uphold peace and that is still their main objective. They have been successful in keeping us from having a third World War. He feels that there is need for revision of the United Nations charter and he hopes that it can be adequately revised in the future.

Dr. Viault, professor of history and geography, has been at Winthrop for ten years and is a visiting professor at Duke University. When he took over the discussion, he talked of the United Nations past. The United Nations was established in 1945 at the end of World War II. The American people and government had high expectations for the United Nations and believed that the United Nations would establish and maintain peace in the world.

“The peace-loving nations were now drawn together in the United Nations. It was an error for the United States and its people to believe that the United Nations could serve as a complete alternative to ‘power politics,’ rather than as a device to keep ‘power politics’ within the bounds of some order. When the American people began realizing that their initial expectations had been excessive, they started viewing the United Nations with contempt. The United Nations has not created a new world order but has contributed to the creation of a degree of international consciousness and a degree of international order.”

A Page In The U.N. Story

BY SULA SMITH

A folded paper note in the air meant “constant motion.” A folded paper note to a page at the Model United Nations held this past week, April 18-22, according to Lynn Eleniken, a volunteer page.

“It was really hectic. People were always passing notes. Sometimes you’d have ten messages in your hand to deliver,” said Lynn Eleniken, a junior math major.

“We went to one or two optional rehearsals before it started. They told us the countries would be in a sort of alphabetical order. After the first five minutes you knew where everybody was,” she said.

“We were just to deliver messages and replies. They kept us busy.”

“Each country had a plaque identifying it. Anyone from any country who wanted to send a message to another country would send a note and we would deliver it,” Lynn said. “Each note had who it was to, and who it was from written on it. It was confusing for the countries to receive anonymous notes so they had to besigned.”

Lynn served during a two-hour session. There were seven to eight pages working at that time for well over two hundred UN participants. The Plenary was conducted much like a “real” UN General Assembly.

“Whenver they called for a vote, we had to deliver any

notes in our hand and then could take no more. All the doors had to be closed and everyone had to be seated,” she said. “The note was read three times while I was there. The countries would hold up their plaques depending on their vote in favor of, against, or obtaining.”

Lynn said. “Once they actually crossed the note where each country was called upon to vote verbally.”

It was different from anything I’d ever seen. We didn’t have any time to talk,” she said. “I think you pick up little piece of paper in the air, you’d be off to pick it up.”

That’s what she said. But it was fun, and I think I’ll do it again next year.”

OOPS

In relation to the article on page eleven in last week’s issue, April 24, 1978, on “Lowndes and Lowland Honored” THE JOHN­­­­SONIAN made the mistake of misquoting Betty Lou Land. We apologize for the error.

In the April 10, 1978 issue of THE JOHN­­­­SONIAN an article entitled “Rape: Where Can You Go?” by Mary Thomas. It is regrettable that some of the information in this particular article was not credited to a story entitled “Can I Help? Counselors Get Involved” by Barbara Barkley which appeared in the March 20, 1978 edition of THE EVENING HERALD. We apologize for having not credited the source of such valuable information.