Model United Nations to meet in November

BY BETH MCCULLOUGH  
Editor

The Arkansas Model United Nations is hosting its annual conference Nov. 19-20 at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Ark.

This year, the Model United Nation’s club of UCA is playing host to more than 20 area high schools from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Tennessee to attend the educational conference that simulates the United Nations.

The Arkansas Model United Nations program was founded in 1966 and has since grown into one of the largest programs in the country with thousands of high school students participating in the conference simulations each year.

Although held on the UCA campus, the AMUN Conference is also co-sponsored by the Model United Nations organizations at Hendrix College in Conway.

For the first time in AMUN history, a Model International Court of Justice will be a part of the conference and will be sponsored by the International Club at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Students from the MUN organization at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro will also serve as officers on the International Atomic Energy Agency.

According to the AMUN Web site and AMUN coordinator Mark Mullenbach, the AMUN conference is a “multi-disciplinary, educational program with the primary goal of providing high school students with a unique opportunity to enhance their communica-...
United Nations can’t stop globalization

BETH MCCULLOUGH

America has become the enemy. What once was a nation of flocking immigrants and the infamous American dream, has now become a country of the wasteful and arrogant masses.

And it doesn’t stop there. Americans aren’t happy with sitting inside their own borders eating fast food and watching the latest episode of whatever reality tv show is on that day. Oh no. The American culture is out to dominate the world. And until every last Ling, Greta and Juan is doing the same, it won’t stop.

Americanization, McDonaldization and Coca-Colaization – as silly as they sound – are all international phenomena studied by political scientists far and wide. We want people to look like us, act like us, talk like us and even eat like us. And according to recent United Nations’ studies, many native and indigenous cultures, languages and traditions are on the brink of extinction as a result of these types of globalization.

So what should the UN do to stop big bad wolf America? Absolutely nothing.

Globalization will not be stopped by a body of well-intentioned world leaders. With vast advances in travel over the past 50 years and even more leaps and bounds made in the technological world, the spread of ideas is imminent. It’s only natural for cultures to mix and blend.

But that doesn’t mean those cultures have to lose their own identity either. Cultures chose themselves to follow global ideas rather than their own traditions and ways.

America isn’t the enemy. Those cultures abandoning their own ideas are destroying themselves.

UN must protect human rights

PHILLIP WORLEY

You know how it’s really fun whenever you disagree passionately with someone on one issue to completely ignore everything else they have to say?

The United Nations has yet to grow out of this belief when it comes to its responsibility to protect human rights in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

So far, the debate has centered around defining what is occurring there. Meanwhile, thousands of human beings are dying.

An intense mistrust of the U.S. has created an environment where countries are primed for antagonism in perpetuum, ready to disagree and denounce at any moment. Renaud Muselier, the French secretary of state for foreign affairs, strangely commented that America is overreacting (we’re at a loss as to what an overreaction to mass murder might be) and that, in contradiction to United States’ claims, the situation in Darfur is merely “bordering on ethnic cleansing.”

Such distinctions are squalid and petty and derogate the perception of atrocities there.

We could almost forgive this anesthetic battle of semantics if not for the fact that it has real policy implications.

Germany, in contrast to the United States’ contribution of $28 million, donated just $1 million to the UN’s Darfur relief program. France has donated nothing.

At a meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission, Europe opposed strong American rhetoric denouncing the horrors in Darfur.

Instead, they sought a kinder, gentler resolution even the uncooperative Sudanese government agreed with.

The UN, for the good of the world, should stop pretending this problem doesn’t exist.

Throw darts at George Bush’s picture, scream into a pillow for five minutes.

Heck, burn an American flag whatever makes delegates feel better.

But don’t let the recent breakdowns in diplomacy at the UN interfere with other international obligations.

Too many lives depend on the willingness of the UN to grow up.
Judge orders US to comply with Geneva rights

BY BETH McCULLOUGH
Editor

Since the United States launched its War on Terror against terrorists including those countries that harbor terrorists, thousands of Afghans and Iraqis allegedly involved with these groups have been detained at Camp X-Ray and Camp Delta on the Guantanamo Bay Naval Air Station in Cuba.

Many members of the United Nations as well as human rights watch groups around the globe have recently raised concerns of the detainees treatment including the legality of holding individuals without the rights given to prisoners of war as defined by the Geneva Conventions.

Article 5 of the Third Geneva Convention states, “The present Convention shall apply to the persons referred to in Article 4 from the time they fall into the power of the enemy and until their final release and repatriation. Should any doubt arise as to whether persons, having committed a belligerent act and having fallen into the hands of the enemy, belong to any of the categories enumerated in Article 4, such persons shall enjoy the protection of the present Convention until such time as their status has been determined by a competent tribunal.”

This requires all detainees be granted prisoner of war status or be brought before a competent tribunal to determine a status.

Earlier this week a Federal District Court for the District of Columbia agreed with the concerns and ordered the Bush administration to halt military commission proceedings as of Nov. 8 until the Bush administration complies with the Geneva Conventions.

Judge James Robertson issued the ruling in the habeas corpus petition of Salim Ahmed Hamdan, accused of being Osama bin Laden’s driver, and faulted the Department of Defense for not properly determining the legal status of the detainees and for imposing rules of evidence that violate fair trial standards.

According to witness group Human Rights Watch, “the federal court ruled that Hamdan must be treated as a prisoner of war unless and until a competent tribunal determines otherwise. As a prisoner of war, he may only be tried by court-martial under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and not by military commission. The administration has refused to hold the tribunals required by the Geneva Conventions because the President had decided none of the detainees at Guantanamo were entitled to prisoner of war status.”

During the conference Nov. 19-20, the legal committee will discuss at length what the United Nations should do to require member-states to comply with the Geneva Conventions.

US soldiers leave the front gate to Camp Delta, the location of detainees at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Air Station in Cuba.

AMUN • From Page 1

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AMUN draws out-of-state schools to conference

BY TARA PARSON
Staff Reporter

Prepare to give a big Arkansas welcome to two out of state schools at the 2004 AMUN conference.

Booker T. Washington High School from Tulsa, Okla. and Pope John Paul II High School from Hendersonville, Tenn. will take part in the conference this year.

This is Booker T. Washington’s first year at the AMUN conference, and they will represent Canada, Jordan and Thailand.

PJPII students will represent eight countries at this year’s Arkansas Model United Nations Conference.

It will be Pope John Paul II’s third year at the conference. Since it’s founding in August 2002, the club has won forty awards. At the Sixth Annual George Washington University MUN Conference last spring, Pope John Paul II took part in the international competition and brought home two awards.

They will represent eight countries at the AMUN conference.

It is a privilege to have them at the 2004 AMUN conference and the added competition is welcome.

Photos compliments of <www.jp2hs.org> and <www.btwhs.org>

Rights • From Page 1

embrace concerning this pertinent situation and how the organization should execute and implement its humanitarian prerogatives.

The final focal point of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee will examine globalization’s threat to indigenous cultures, languages and traditions. Globalization is the process of making an idea worldwide in scope or application.

According to recent studies, many native or indigenous cultures, languages and traditions are “on the brink of extinction” as a result of the phenomenon of globalization.

For example, there are some 5,000 to 7,000 spoken languages in the world, of which some 4,000 to 5,000 are classified as indigenous languages. Of these native languages, more than half are in danger of immediate extinction.

The committee will determine what, if anything, the UN should utilize to preserve and protect indigenous cultures, languages and traditions.

The presiding council officers of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee will be UCA students Sarah Freeman, chair; Jennifer Rullman, co-chair; and Jose Guzzardi, legal counsel.

Kurds • From Page 1

Most of their trouble with other nations began after they were placed in the region they are in today.

Many times when they have tried to rebel and gain some sort of independence, the countries and leaders in control of them have taken down the rebellion and taken it down violently.

Many Kurds have felt as though they are unwanted and not tolerated because of the reactions of the countries which they find themselves in.

Because the Kurds chose to not be in the social majorities of their countries and not speak the languages of the mainstream in their countries, they were not given the same benefits as other tribes who conformed to the ways of the majority.

Since World War I the Kurds have desired the homeland that was promised to them.

Although it seems like a far off reality it could soon happen.

There have been many things that have occurred since the fall of the government of Saddam Hussein and with the chance of civil war or other occurrences it is likely that they could possibly have a homeland if Iraq splits.

Or they could finally get international help to help keep a lasting peace between the Kurds and their neighbors in Iran, Iraq and Turkey.

Kurdistan was promised to the Ottoman Turks after World War I and includes Iran, Iraq and Turkey. Twenty million Kurds live in the area today.

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Kurdistan map courtesy of <http://www.cool.mb.ca/~kakel/kurdistain.html>.
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