By Beth McCullough

With the digital divide increasing drastically between the Global North and the Global South in the past few years, the United Nations hosted a two-day "Global Forum on Internet Governance" on March 25 and 26, 2004 to discuss internet related issues.

According to the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, the forum was "an opportunity for relevant stakeholders - including those who are not members of the Task Force - to engage in an open discussion of all aspects of this range of issues."

"In the period leading up to the Global Forum, an online discussion of these issues was organized to ensure as broad and comprehensive representation of views, perspectives and recommendations as possible."

Secretary General Kofi Annan spoke at the forum held in New York City, asking leaders to think outside the box on ways to govern the Internet.

"In only a few years, the Internet has revolutionized trade, health, education and, indeed, the very fabric of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan speaks to the leT task force during the Global Forum on Internet Governance opening session March 25, 2004.

human communication and exchange," Annan said. "Moreover, its potential is far greater than what we have seen in the relatively short time since its creation. In managing, promoting and protecting its presence in our

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Economic, Social Council to discuss disease crises

By Chelsea Painter

Due to a growing concern throughout the international community regarding the ability of global relief organizations to deal with widespread disease-related humanitarian crises, the Economic and Social Council will meet to identify probable causes and address solutions to the effect of

HIV/AIDS crisis and other diseases on humanitarian assistance efforts. According to David Nabarro, executive director for sustainable development and healthy environments at the World Health Organization, "communicable diseases caused up to 70 percent of the deaths in complex emergencies."

- David Nabarro, executive director for sustainable development and healthy environments for WHO

It will be the ECOSOC Council's responsibility to determine what, if anything, the United Nations do to deal with this serious problem while promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress.

The presiding council officers of the Economic and Social Council will be UCA students Sarah Post, chair; Elizabeth Philpott, co-chair; and Elsie Tetteh, legal counsel.

Awards possible for delegations, individuals at AMUN conference

By Abbey Stone

Do you have high hopes of winning an award at the 39th Annual AMUN conference? Well, if you do then here are the ways for your name to be considered for one of the many awards that will be given this year.

Delegates in each of the Committees/Councils will vote and choose one delegate to serve as Rapporteur of the Committee. The Rapporteur will have the responsibility of formally presenting a summary of the committee's proceedings and accomplishments during the closing session of the conference.

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United Nations needs to avoid Internet governance

BETH MCCULLOUGH

As the technology in America and Europe increases on a daily basis, the digital divide between these countries and those of the Global South also grows in leaps and bounds. But is that something we as Americans and members of the United Nations should concern ourselves with? Is it our fault Juan in Chile or Ecuador or wherever can't access the Internet to research a school assignment?

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan wants to govern the Internet and bring it to those areas of the world less developed. But this is quite frankly impossible and a waste of the UN's valuable time and efforts. Shouldn't the UN be more concerned with children dying from AIDS and famine in Africa rather than whether or not they can search for a pair of vintage Nikes on Ebay?

And governing the Internet is just too impractical. This medium has been allowed to run free for too long, and people are not going to start complying with rules anytime soon. The Internet is too vast to even begin to restrict much less govern. Not to mention, every culture has different ideas of what governance is and what should be allowed, and they don't appear to be agreeing on anything anytime soon.

This is just too big of a project for the UN to take on.

Arafat's death will bring peace if boundary ideas died with him

PHILLIP WORLEY

With the death of Yasser Arafat comes a renewed sense of optimism about the possibility of peace in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, the death of one man—even one of Arafat's importance—leaves unchanged many of the systemic and inherent problems there.

Hitherto, the policies in the Middle East have failed to accomplish any real measure of what most would call peace—whatever that is.

Many blamed this fact on Arafat. But Arafat was, of course, not the only person in Palestine to wish Israel ill. And he wasn't the last, either.

The next leader

Until there is a PLO leader who will give up this notion, there is little chance for peace in the Middle East.

Middle East. The boundaries are important because of what they symbolize: the legitimacy of the Israeli state.

The Oslo Accords failed because Palestinians (and others) refused to recognize the right of the Israeli state to exist.

Naturally, the Palestinians question boundaries—it's hard to have a state without them.

The next leader of Palestine should openly acknowledge Israel's right to exist while clearly presenting his case for Palestinian statehood.

But Palestinian statehood means nothing to the peace process without sincerely acknowledging Israel's right to exist.
According to the United Nations Charter, the UN Security Council has primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

When a country issues a complaint concerning a threat to peace, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties involved in the conflict reach an agreement by peaceful means. In some cases, the Council undertakes measures such as investigation and mediation by appointing special representatives to the case. Then, the Council may set forth proposed principles for a peaceful settlement.

During the Arkansas Model United Nations Forum, the Security Council will investigate current global disputes or situations which could lead to international friction. Subsequently, they will recommend methods for rectifying such disagreements or establish terms and conditions for a peaceful settlement. Pertinent topics of discussion will include the Iraq situation, the circumstances in Israel and Palestine, as well as the state of affairs in Kashmir (India and Pakistan) and the situation in Sudan.

The Council will then formulate policies, establishing a system to regulate armaments and determine the degree of danger involved concerning reported threats to peace and acts of aggression. Then the committee will recommend what action or actions the UN should implement.

The presiding officers of the Security Council will be UCA students Jerrad Lee, chair; Michael Herring, co-chair; and Jon Anthes, legal counsel.
At the 1992 Earth Summit, 150 governments signed the Convention on Biological Diversity whose primary goal included biodiversity. However, this convention and others like it are failing to make a difference because of other pressing needs. The UN Environment Program must decide if something needs to be done to protect and conserve biodiversity in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

The second topic on the agenda is municipal wastewater management and the protection of marine environments. The world shares one large ocean and therefore marine pollution affects the whole world. The pollution is largely caused by runoff from nearby land, causing public health, economic and environmental problems. Despite the many regulations on marine pollution, it is still a major problem, so members must decide what to do about it.

The members will debate over energy and sustainable development in less developed countries. This has been a major problem for the UN since its beginning. Sustainable development is the ability to meet a developing country’s economic needs now, without sacrificing the potential for development in the future. The members must find a way to increase economic stability and quality of life without risking an energy crisis in the future.

International Atomic Energy Agency keeps reactors safe

The International Atomic Energy Agency was created in 1957 to, “promote the safe and peaceful applications of atomic energy while guarding against its destructive use,” and “to serve as the global forum for sharing nuclear know-how and techniques among industrialized and developing countries alike.”

Within three years of the IAEA’s founding there were 17 nuclear reactors in the world expanding to the current number of 440 reactors in 31 countries, providing 17 percent of the world’s energy. The IAEA estimated that in the year 2000, 31 percent of the electricity in western Europe was produced by nuclear power plants, slightly more than two times the amount in North America, which was 15 percent.

Many people mistake atomic energy to be a bad thing since the creation of the atom bomb in World War II. The IAEA says that only five countries (the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France) actually acknowledge having atomic bombs. Because so few countries have these weapons, the vast majority of their work is to insure nuclear safety at power plant locations around the world, although they do deal with weapons issues on occasion.

There have not been many accidents involving nuclear energy although Chernobyl in Russia and the Three Mile Island incident in the United States sparked fears with many. Since there have only been two major accidents with nuclear energy it shows that the IAEA is achieving its goal of safe nuclear activity throughout the world.
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will receive an engraved gavel and certificate. Delegates chosen as Rapporteur are also eligible for one of the outstanding delegate awards for the committees and councils.

The AMUN Secretariat will choose between five and ten delegates as Outstanding Delegates for each of the committees and councils. The delegates chosen for these awards are those who have demonstrated excellent knowledge of the committee topics, as well as excellent speaking and parliamentary procedure skills.

In addition, the recipients of these awards are delegates who have represented their respective countries in an intelligent and professional manner throughout the entire conference.

Each of the recipients will be acknowledged during the closing ceremonies, and certificates will be mailed to the recipients following the conference.

The Secretary-General and the members of the Secretariat will also choose five delegations (or countries) for Outstanding Delegation-Honorable Mention awards. The delegations chosen for these awards will be the delegations whose representatives performed for the most part in an outstanding manner during the committee/council sessions, and the delegations that its representatives demonstrated high levels of knowledge, competence, professionalism and effectiveness during the plenary session of the General Assembly.

The delegations will receive certificates during the closing ceremonies. The Secretary-General of the AMUN Conference will choose up to five delegations to receive Outstanding Position Paper awards. The position papers will be evaluated on the basis of style including grammar and punctuation and substance, the extent to which the position papers accurately reflected the actual policies of the respective countries.

The delegations chosen for this award will be acknowledged during the closing ceremonies.

The Secretariat of the AMUN conference will also present a Certificate of Appreciation to all students who served as pages, a Certificate of Appreciation to all the students who served as head delegates and a Certificate of Participation to all students who participated as delegates or observers.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
FRIDAY, NOV. 19, 2004

10 A.M. - 12 P.M.
Orientation/Training Session - Training Session for teachers and students (9th-12th) who are attending the AMUN conference as observers or delegates for the first time, as well as junior high school teachers and students (6th-8th) who are attending the conference as observers - Brewer-Hegeman Room 5B.

10 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Conference Registration - Brewer-Hegeman Hall (North Lobby).

1 P.M. - 2 P.M.
Opening Session - Reynolds Performance Hall

2:15 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Convening of Committee and Council meetings:
Economic and Finance Committee - Brewer-Hegeman Hall Room 4A
Social and Humanitarian Committee - Reynolds Performance Hall
Special Political Committee - Brewer-Hegeman Hall Room 5B
Legal Committee - Brewer-Hegeman Hall Room 5A
Economic and Social Council - Brewer-Hegeman Hall Room 1
Security Council - Brewer-Hegeman Hall Room 3
United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) - Reynolds Performance Hall classroom
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - Stanley Russ Room 108
Model International Court of Justice (MIC) - Stanley Russ Hall Room 103

All pages should report to AMUN Secretariat Headquarters in Brewer-Hegeman Hall Room 2

5:30 P.M. - 7 P.M.
Dinner Break

7 P.M. - 10 P.M.
Resumption of Committee and Council Meetings - meetings will be held in the same rooms as listed above

7:45 P.M. - 9:45 P.M.
Central Arkansas Chapter of the UNA-USA meeting (7:45pm-8:45pm) - 2nd Floor Lobby of Reynolds.