Rockefeller, Hardin address delegates

Arkansas Model United Nations opens 39th annual session

BY BETH MCCULLOUGH
Editor

The 39th annual Arkansas Model United Nations Conference opened yesterday afternoon with speeches by University of Central Arkansas President Lu Hardin and Arkansas Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller.

AMUN Coordinator Mark Mullenbach introduced Hardin and welcomed the students by saying "for nearly four decades this campus has hosted a conference of the best and the brightest."

Hardin told the group of nearly 300 students from Arkansas, Tennessee and Oklahoma high schools that it was a very important time in history to be a part of model United Nations.

"I appreciate your active involvement in a program that is critical in our current junction," he said. "We are at one of the most critical crossroads in international relations. These crossroads are nuclear weapons and UN troops - how far they go, where they go.

"Never has there been such a critical time. 1947? 1948? No, no. And what makes it different? The Internet, terrorists and nuclear weapons."

Hardin said he had the opportunity to visit Bethlehem and talk with former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres four years ago about the situation between Israel and Palestine.

"I stood there as [Peres] described Jerusalem and where the line would be drawn and how hard it was to agree," Hardin said. "As I listened to him about the West Bank and Gaza ... I wondered how could anyone care about this few acres of land up here as thousands of people died."

Hardin also talked about the communist situation in China and how, as a state senator, he visited the country the day before the opening statements and caucuses, the Committee discussed a resolution to address the problem.

"The United Nations High Commission on Refugees failed to respond to this grave problem because the refugees from Darfur did not cross borders," Criswell said.

"France believes the UN should act to protect all endan-

Humanitarian Committee discusses Sudan refugees

BY PHILLIP WORLEY
Associate Editor

In its first item of business, the Social and Humanitarian Committee began work toward a resolution to resolve the problem of refugees in the Darfur region of Sudan.

According to Callie Criswell, France (Conway High-East), the issue deserves the prompt attention of the United Nations.

After nearly 2 1/2 hours of

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Baby got UN fever

Oh my gosh, Delegates.
Look at those Secretariats.
They are like, so, professional.
I mean, they look like those hobbits, only
tall. Except for their leader.

Shortysmolls, I mean, is that her name?
They only stand for her because they are
afraid she'll use her magic gavel, 'kay?
I mean, she's just so, out there.

Look! She's so with it.

I like M-U-N and I cannot lie, you other
delegates can't deny.

When Shorty walks in with a gavel in
hand, and the chair says Rise! you get - up.

Macedon yells "What? Stand for us instead. I
do all the work while not 'in charge.'"

Oh baby, JK's stylin' and profilin'.

Playa' tried to warn him, the German was
among them.

But Loquacious came before, to chat, and
rap, and rule him out of order.

I've seen 'm compromisin' and devising.
The heck with procedure,
I'm 'bout to have a seizure.

Motion (Nay!) Motion (Second!)
Motion (Carried!)

Oh yeah, they've got that.

The press, the best.
We wish you all success, you're a step
above the rest.

When you go home, you should be
revered.

Instead, your friends will all be scared,
when you talk about the Bomb, refugees and
feeding hungry children.

Practice and you'll see, what all we can do,
United for a Better World!

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BETH MCCULLOUGH

Take a moment
today to just stop
and look around.
Look at your
friends you drove
miles with or just
across town with
to get to this con-
vention.

Look at your
enemies you're
debating wildly
against in commit-
tee meetings.

Take a moment.
Because these are
tomorrow's
leaders.

This is the next
generation of state
assemblymen, United State congressmen and
United Nations
delegates.

This is the next
generation of deci-
sion makers. Take
a look around.
Because this is
tomorrow.

And surprising-
ly, I'm more than a
little impressed.

I envisioned a
group of high
school students too
afraid to speak up,
too afraid to voice
their opinions, too
afraid to be a
leader.

Take a
moment.
Because
these are
tomorrow's
leaders.

What I saw was
quite different.
I saw a group of
high school students passionate
about the United Nations, passion-ate about their
beliefs and passion-ate about standing up for
them.

I saw a group of
students debating and discussing,
passing and exchanging their
ideas with others.

These students
have obviously researched and researched some
more.

They know their
stuff, and I certain-
ly wouldn't want
to be on the wrong
side of an argu-
ment with them.

They all present-
ed their views in a
respectful, intelli-
gent manner that
any mom would
be proud of.

This group of
new leaders has
the potential to
make a difference,
to change the
world.

Keep doing what
you're doing. Keep
being involved and keep caring
about politics and the world around
you.

You are the
future of this
nation and this
global community.

Believe in the
United Nations,
and you can make
it work.

Don't believe in
it, and you can
destroy it.

It's up to you.
Special Political moves for three-part resolution

BY CHANLEY PAINTER
Staff Reporter

“Welcome to the 39th annual Model United Nations Conference,” Chairman Michael Bynum began as he called to order the session of the Special Political Committee. After brief introductions and opening statements, the excitement began.

Wall construction between Israeli-Palestine was the motioned topic debated first. With the goal of reaching a peaceful compromise between these two countries, each representative had the opportunity to voice their opinion on the issue.

A variety of viewpoints were stressed in each country’s initial statements, from the need to tear down the wall to expressing the benefits of keeping the wall. After this opportunity, the delegates motioned for a caucus to debate and create a peaceful resolution for this situation.

The room quickly filled with heated passion deliberation as countries aggressively tried to pursue common ground between Israel and Palestine’s apt arguments.

The spokesperson from Palestine fervently addressed the anguish and agony the wall has caused his country. Referring to the loss in food and water supply, the delegate maintained the wall needed to be torn down, especially since he said it is built on Palestinian territory.

Israel’s delegate contended that Palestine is a threat to the safety of the citizens of Israel, and the construction of this wall had been a success in deterring deadly terrorist attacks.

She acknowledged that although the barrier is harmful to Palestine’s water and food supply, it is too hard to give up the wall because of Palestinian threats to Israel.

Both nations said they are open to suggestions if the other admits their fallacies and wrongdoings.

Other countries expressed their concerns about the issue in caucus as well.

Mexico believes the UN should recognize Palestine’s self-determination and right to have a fair representation in this matter.

The West Wall was built by Israel to protect itself from Palestinians.

While the United States feels the wall proves effective and should remain to protect Israel, France and Japan among others showed effort in creating a three-part resolution, including moving the wall back to the 1967 border or “Green Line,” having the United Nations control passage and give both Israel and Palestine a say in how the divider is governed.

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tpered human beings, regardless of whether they leave Sudan.”

Dylan Rumph, Algeria (Benton High), disagreed.

In his opening statement, he said, “This is an African problem; we should be allowed to handle it.”

Later, Rumph said the dissemination of aid to Africa would not come without Western restrictions.

“With Western aid comes Western ties, and Africa does not need that,” he said.

But Criswell said France’s intervention was justified.

“We sent a small delegation and financial aid,” she said. “We discovered human rights violations. It is important for the international community to monitor the situation there.”

The delegation from Mexico agreed, saying the international community cannot ignore what is occurring there.

“The African Union must be allowed to address the problem, but we should also lend support financially. Mexico has taken in refugees from Guatemala.”

According to Rumph, African countries are acting quickly.

“Because we’re there, we are able to take in refugees,” he said. “If we’re able to take care of the situation, we don’t need to add any additional unnecessary

“This is an African problem; we should be allowed to handle it.”

- Dylan Rumph, Algeria

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ed by the United Nations and Switzerland.

According to Rumph, the talks would include two delegates from each African country, with the committee screening participants.

“There are a few countries that struggle with corruption, and this will allow the committee to ensure participants are serious,” he said.

The goal of the peace talks will be a proposal that does not call for financial assistance from non-African countries.

Rumph said, however, that “if the need arises, which we hope it doesn’t, the African countries will ask for aid.”

France expressed its skepticism for the resolution.
Legal votes to pass end of torturing in Cuba

BY LINDSEY EAVES
Staff Reporter

The Legal Committee met and passed a resolution Friday afternoon to encourage the creation of a panel of appointed judges to determine POW status as armed conflicts arise. The committee met to discuss issues pertaining to the treatment of "enemy combatants" and international law.

The recent detention of "enemy combatants" and "terrorists" by the U.S. government at a U.S. naval base located at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba has resulted in a controversy regarding the legality of detaining individuals without the rights accorded to prisoners of war, as defined by the Geneva Conventions Article 5 of the Third Geneva Convention requires that detainees be granted POW status or brought before a "competent tribunal" to determine their status.

After several caucuses to discuss the issues to form a resolution, the delegates still seemed unsure of the full coverage of the resolution. The delegates had formed two separate caucuses and the ultimate goal was to form one resolution.

After much discussion, the Afghanistan delegate motioned to have another ten-minute caucus to discuss.

Much heated discussion went on among delegates as they tried to get their point across to other committee members.

A working paper was then turned in to the chair, and discussion was opened while waiting for paper copies for each delegate to be made.

The delegate from Spain then explained, "the working paper will solve debates."

He added that in his opinion "it would be a good thing for everybody, and it put an end to torturing."

The Nigerian Delegate voiced her concerns on the level of compromise of the working paper.

She said the problem at hand was that "in the compromise there is supposed to be a merge, however some points are not being taken."

Algeria then made the motion to extend the question time limit from 2 minutes to speak and 5 minutes to answer inquiries to 5 minutes of speaking and 10 minutes of answering inquiries. Motion passed.

The twelve delegates who submitted the working paper resolution left the room to discuss who should speak on the resolution.

After a paper document was in hand delegates from Japan, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Pakistan and Costa Rica spoke on the resolution.

The delegate from Peru motioned to end discussion and move to the vote.

The resolution passed 38-9.

Economice, Finance focuses on Afghanistan economy

ABBEY STONE
Staff Reporter

Thirty-seven member countries were present and voting for the 39th annual Arkansas Model United Nations Conference, with Ben Pollitzer from Hendrix College chairing the Economic and Finance Committee.

The meeting got off to a rapid start.

No sooner after roll was called did the delegate from Libya make a motion to have the topics of the committee in this order: reconstructing the economies of Afghanistan and Iraq; globalization and Internet governance.

The delegate from the Russian Federation seconded the motion.

After the motion was carried with no opposition, opening statements began.

The delegate representing Afghanistan said the Afghan economy has been uplifted by the United States, as well as the Iraqi economy, but that much more is needed.

The People's Republic of China and Mexico both said they believe the UN needs to get more involved in order to solve this urgent problem.

Egypt said they feel like Afghanistan and Iraq are in their most urgent stage right now, and that their economic issues need to be addressed immediately.

Spain's feelings on the topic were that they were more than willing to help with the problem, but that it needs to be done in a timely fashion so these economies can stand on their own two feet and not have to be dependent on other nations.

The one delegate who really stood out and took over the meeting was the one representing the Philippines.

Meagan Schumacher from Russellville had some very interesting ideas and vocalized them amazingly.

After the Russian Federation called the first caucus to discuss resolutions, every delegate seemed to make his way to the general area of the Philippines table.

Schumacher addressed the issue at hand and brought to everyone's attention that a resolution to do more is actually attainable.

She informed everyone that the EU has given a $90 million grant to the World Bank for the rebuilding of the Afghan and Iraqi economies.

She also informed everyone that since April of this year, only 10 million of the 90 million has been used for this problem.

She said a vast majority of that money needed to be spent on agriculture and education.

Although no resolutions have been made yet, the delegates did agree they are going to concentrate on the Afghanistan's economy more so than the Iraqi economy due to Iraq's absence from the conference.
Environment pushes for purification systems

TARA PARSONS
Staff Reporter

The United Nations Environment Program began its first year at the AMUN conference with cooperation as its theme.

The delegate from Iran expressed the need of financial aid to alleviate the problem of sewage output. The delegate from China also expressed concern with runoff and said they were open to filtration ideas.

The delegate from Costa Rica offered a solution to the sewage problem that would implement a septic system that uses bacteria to decompose the waste.

The delegate from Brazil saw problems in the bacteria-based septic system because of the high pH levels in some rivers.

Another solution was presented that would implement a standard purification system.

Delegates were open to this solution because it would open up jobs and help the economy.

Delegates then began to draft a resolution that would ask countries to implement a form of sanitation, either the bacteria-based septic system or the standard purification system.

Delegates also decided to form research facilities that would report findings to UNEP on a semi-annual basis. This would allow exploration into cheaper alternatives for under-developed countries.

The second drafted resolution would limit the amount of waste dumping into oceans. Delegates wanted to form some sort of consequence if found dumping.

They encountered an obstacle because punishing countries is a breach of national sovereignty.

It was decided the resolution would ask countries to monitor and form preventative measures against breaching the dumping limit.

These resolutions were presented to delegates for consideration.

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Tiananmen Square protest.

“All they were demonstrating for was just a little bit of democracy, but the door was shut in 1989,” he said. “But now, the 98 percent of people - because only two percent of Chinese are communists - that door is opening again.”

Hardin ended by again thanking students for their interest in the world around them.

“I want to thank each and everyone of you for caring,” he said. “Caring about politics. Caring about the future of this nation and this world. Students, what an incredible experience you’re going to have over the next few days.”

After Hardin spoke, Under Secretary General Chris Gjorgievski introduced Rockefeller to address the group gathered in Reynolds Performance Hall.

Rockefeller told students he had the opportunity to travel around the world and from it learned much about international relations and how the world works. He said the world was much different today than it was for his parents and grandparents.

“We were taught that each of us could build a wall around our state and be self-sufficient. But we cannot,” he said. “The youth of Paris, Ark. will not be competing against the youth of Russellville and Dardanelle and Clarksville. They will be competing against the youth of Paris, France. We are truly in a global environment, a global economy. But the future is not just about competition; it’s about cooperation.”

Rockefeller said many Americans were complaining about outsourcing of jobs but gave numerous examples of job-insourcing from world-wide companies wanting to come to Arkansas. He said he met with a company from Germany a few days ago that didn’t want to talk about George Bush or other American ideas. They simply wanted to set up their company so they could start saving the lives of American soldiers and troops in Iraq.

Rockefeller stressed the importance of traveling and spending time with people from other countries and other cultures.

“No matter what you do, take advantage of the opportunity to be with people from other countries. Enjoy it. Learn from it. Absorb everything you can,” he said. “Understand the importance of not only understanding the language but also the culture.

One day some of you may be serving in our general assembly ... some of you may be at the UN. But without the depth of these experiences, you’re going to be at a disadvantage.”

But attending conferences and participating in programs like model United Nations is a step in the right direction according to Rockefeller.

“What you are doing here - benefit from it,” he said. “Be the leaders we need. Never lose your idealism. Find the way to yes in such a way that makes our world a better place so you can tell your children and your grandchildren one day that you made a difference in the world.”

“Never has there been such a critical time. 1917? 1948? No, no. And what makes it different? The Internet, terrorists and nuclear weapons.”

- UCA President Lu Hardin