General Assembly: Success for peace

By Seth Thomas
Staff Reporter

The General Assembly met today to discuss a large variety of issues presented by its four sub-committees. The Assembly passed a number of resolutions and further exemplified the necessity of the UN forum for peaceful debate and conflict resolution.

Opening remarks from the Secretary General were followed by statements from the floor. Delegates expressed confidence in the Assembly’s ability to address each matter in detail and agree upon the best possible action, although some delegates noted that some of the proposed resolutions were inadequate and unable to solve the problems facing the UN and the world at large.

After a vote to set the agenda, the General Assembly agreed to discuss peacekeeping reform first.

Resolution B1 from the Special Political Committee was brought to the floor along with an accompanying amendment. In total, the resolution seeks to solve the problem of sexual misconduct perpetrated by UN peacekeeping forces by mandating criminal background checks (with special attention to racial and prejudice crimes), internationally accredited human rights training for three months under the guidance of UN officials, and a thorough instruction in local laws for all peacekeeping troops.

Critics of B1 attacked the resolution’s ambiguity and

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Guzzardi steps down as Secretary-General, answers questions

How long have you been involved in Model United Nations?
I have always been very interested in the United Nations, but it wasn’t until my first semester at UCA (Fall 2004) that I learned about Model UN.

How and why did you get started?
I had just transferred to UCA and I was choosing my classes with my academic advisor. I wanted to take an international relations class, but all sections were closed. My advisor saw that there was a “Model UN” Class being offered and I signed up for it. Then I went to the Political Science Department to find out what Model UN really was. I was very excited when I found out about the AMUN conference. I did not have the opportunity to participate in Model UN Conferences during High School in Brazil, but here in Arkansas I would be able to get involved with one of the largest and most traditional conferences in the country.

See JOSE page 7
The second day of meetings of the Economic and Social Council saw a much more intense round of debate as the topic of the protection of the rights of migrant workers was set as the next agenda item. The caucusing that took place on this topic was much more impassioned and far less cohesive than it had been on the issue of poverty and hunger. Delegates reached little consensus in the first two hours of both moderated and un-moderated caucusing. Overall, there was a shared concern among delegates that the United Nations can not attempt to establish authoritative legalization and naturalization policies for immigrants because it would constitute an obvious violation of member-states’ domestic jurisdiction.

However, the sponsors of a resolution (2-1) on the issue, including Cuba, India, Nigeria, Australia, Tanzania, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Belgium, and Vietnam, did recognize that the United Nations has a responsibility to promote the rights of migrant workers and to encourage their protection within any country. The sponsors of this resolution also acknowledged that the rights of migrant workers have to be addressed on a “country-by-country basis.”

The opposition to the resolution, when it first appeared on the floor, specifically objected to the notion that the United Nations should promote what they saw as an across-the-board legalization of migrant workers in order to ensure their rights.

An extended amount of caucusing following the introduction of the resolution centered completely on the problem of legal and illegal workers. As a result, the sponsors of the resolution created an amendment to enhance the United Nation’s role in monitoring the status of migrant workers pursuant to the individual legalization policies of a given country.

The sponsors explained that, through the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers (CMW), the United Nations would be dependent on the preference of countries to review the status of their migrant workers. Following the amendment, the resolution passed by a roll call vote of twenty-four to three, and the topic was closed to discussion.
MICJ favors Spain as owner of the Isla Perejil

By Jeffery Thomas
Staff Reporter

The MICJ was faced with the decision of the rightful ownership of the Isla Perejil. The Isla Perejil is a small, rocky islet located in the Strait of Gibraltar, 200 m off the coast of Morocco, 5 km from the Spanish exclave Ceuta. The islet’s sovereignty is in dispute between Morocco and Spain, but both agree on a status quo that leaves it deserted and virtually a no man’s land.

The vast majority of Spaniards and Moroccans had not heard of the islet until July 11, 2002, when a group of Moroccan soldiers set up base on the islet. The Moroccan government said that they set foot on the island in order to monitor illegal immigration which was denied by the Spanish government since there was virtually no cooperation in the matter by that time, which was a repeated source of complaint from Spain; later, after protests from the Spanish government, led by José María Aznar, the soldiers were replaced by Moroccan navy cadets who then installed a fixed base on the island. This further angered the Spanish government and both countries restated their claims to the islet. Spain was fully supported by almost all the European Union member states, with the exception of a rather cold shoulder from France and Portugal, while Morocco had the official support from the Arab League members except Algeria which even took that occasion to insist that she recognizes Spanish sovereignty on the Ceuta and Melilla exclaves. The exclaves on the Ceuta and Melilla are also up to dispute between the two countries. Ceuta is a Spanish exclave in North Africa, located on the Mediterranean, on the southern coast of the Strait of Gibraltar, bordering Morocco. Melilla is a Spanish city on the Mediterranean coast of North Africa, neighboring Morocco. Even though it is a Spanish city, Morocco still lays a claim to the city. The dispute is evident, but now it is a matter to see how the MICJ will decide the case.

Morocco made the first opening statements. Morocco started by stating that the MICJ has jurisdiction over this case because the UN was established to maintain international peace and security, and to take all measures necessary for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace. Morocco believes Ceuta and Melilla are rightfully part of its territory on the basis of their history and their social direction. Morocco wants the court to restore these cities to Morocco and to repair the damage of colonialism. The Moroccan government wants an end of the Spanish occupation of Morocco.

Spain started by saying that the court does not have jurisdiction in this case. Spain does not feel that the court can rule on case in which the dispute that was prevalent before the establishment of the court; therefore, the court should leave the dispute up for the nations to solve on their own. Spain feels that the two cities are part of the Spanish history so they should be kept under Spanish jurisdiction. Spain also feels that Morocco has a spotty record dealing with immigrants, so Morocco wouldn’t be able to handle the immense amount of immigrants in the region. Spain also states that the territories are more European than African so they should remain under Spanish control. Spain feels that if the court gives the territories to Morocco, then that would disturb the peaceful balance between the two countries.

After many hours of deliberation, the court made their decision. First of all the court ruled that they did have jurisdiction over this case. After deciding that, the court ruled in favor of Spain by a vote of 9-0. The court said that Spain had control of the cities before Morocco even became an independent nation; therefore, the court decided to maintain the status quo and keep the cities under Spanish control. Judge Tiffany Jones read the majority opinion.

Have an opinion?

All AMUN participants are invited to submit letters to the editor or articles of their own for publication.

Please send all materials to:
modeltimes2006@yahoo.com
Security Council makes headway on resolutions

By Chris Lassiter
Co-Editor

Saturday’s committee opened with a reconsideration of a working paper dealing with the crisis in Darfur. The working paper addressed training military troops with specific funding from NGOs and member-country contributions. Before long a draft of the paper was passed among delegates and authorship was claimed by the delegate from Ghana. Representatives from Tanzania and Congo-Brazzaville also claimed authorship. This was a working paper on which the council had spent considerable time the night of November 17, without being able to reach any sort of consensus.

The document being considered pledged Security Council concern for the region of Darfur in question and strongly encouraged member-states to follow through in previous assurances of financial support to Security Council resolutions dealing with Darfur. Before very long at all, debate closed and the council moved to voting procedure on Resolution 3-2. The resolution passed unanimously and debate on the topic closed.

Arkansas School for Math and Sciences delegate James McKinney, representing the state of Tanzania, reflected on the council’s action, “The Security Council realizes the urgency of the situation and addressed it adequately.” He went on to assert that UN peacekeeping forces were needed in the region in coordination with the infrastructure and furthering development in the region.

Next on the Security Council agenda as set earlier in the session was the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. In preliminary comments the entire council expressed concern for the subject now under debate, with each country committing itself to taking action in the interest of peace and security.

Resolution 4-1 was the next to pass, sponsored by France, Ghana, Greece, Peru, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom. The resolution requested United Nations peacekeeping forces to remain in the region, and offers negotiation arrangements to leaders of Hezbollah, Lebanon, and Israel. Promising to avoid a Western bias, the resolution closes by supporting the Taif Accords and disarmament.

Next on the Agenda was Iran’s nuclear program, for which a delegate from Iran was summoned to state Iran’s position on international interference and to answer questions from Security Council delegates. Particular concern was directed toward the aims of nuclear development and light and heavy water reactors. Delegates of the council took some time in collecting an understanding and a directly related consensus in policy direction. Delegates from Tanzania and France proposed a working paper for discussion.

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move to the question of getting women more active politically. Throughout the world today there are very few, if any, states that make sure that women have an equal voice in government as men. This is due to past and present cultural conventions that prevented women from doing much outside the home.

Nigerian delegate Amanda Johnson introduced the idea of providing education, because “this is a cultural problem.” The Islamic states disagreed saying that it is not a problem because it is just the way their state’s religion operates. Saudi Arabian delegate Mason Boliny went even further, claiming that the UN is trying to get states like his to “begin a Western shift” that could lead to “moral decline as seen in states like the US.”

Unfortunately, the committee ran out of time before it was able to draft any resolutions regarding this topic.
SPECPOL passes resolution

By Seth Thomas
Staff Reporter

Round 2 in the Special Political Committee got off to a great start as delegates passed a resolution to deal with the mounting problem of peacekeeping reform. Authors and signatories of the resolution noted the declining credibility of UN peacekeeping operations due to sexual misconduct and desired to create “a uniform approach to peacekeeper education and preparation.”

Resolution B1 requires criminal background checks, internationally accredited human rights training, and a thorough understanding of local laws for all peacekeeping troops. Ignorance of the law would no longer count as an excuse for misconduct.

Next, delegates nominated a rapporteur to present the delegation’s decisions before the General Assembly. The delegate from Cuba won the nomination in a close runoff with delegates from the Philippines and Spain.

In the final hour of meeting, another resolution was brought before the committee. Authors of resolution B2 created much controversy by arguing for the creation of a small, temporary, finite response force owned and sponsored directly by the United Nations.

According to the resolution, troops comprising this UN Rapid-Response Peacekeeping Corps (UNRRPC) would rotate every six months (to prevent housing a standing army), be subject to background checks, and complete ten months of training (five within their home country and five at the UN) before deployment. Peacekeeping troops volunteered and trained from their home countries according to past standards would still be required to complete three months of training at the UN before deployment.

Resolution B2 failed to accumulate enough support and did not pass. Another resolution was presented in the last minutes of debate concerning peacekeeping discipline and retribution. This resolution also failed.

Visit AMUN 2006 at http://www.uca.edu.org/amun

WHO finishes drinking water and moves to bird flu

By Staff Reporter

Much of the focus of the World Health Organization’s discussion for Saturday, November 18 centered on safe drinking water and sanitation, the second item on their agenda. The hours of work delegates spent on the topic ultimately resulted in the passing of resolution 2.B., submitted by Portugal, Liberia (both DeSoto Central High School), Canada (Conway High School), Pakistan, and Iraq (both Russellville High School).

The resolution supports programs already in place under WHO and UNICEF supervision while at the same time calling for more funding to continue these efforts. Efforts for Social Humanitarian Committee undertake are suggested: building and strengthening safe water sanitation units, increasing education on contaminated water, and providing basic sanitation services.

From this agenda item the committee readily moved to discussion on Avian Influenza, a disease that has stirred international awareness particularly through its outbreak in Indonesia. Unfortunately, the death rate of those afflicted has proven to be high, and the global community is concerned of the possibility of a human pandemic.
After tabling their first topic, and passing a resolution unanimously on their second topic, the Organization of American States began discussing their third topic, regional integration in the Western hemisphere, on Friday night. After much moderated caucus, the committee passed their second resolution 2-1, in a vote of 9-0-2.

Resolution 2-1 was submitted by Argentina, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and Peru. This resolution supports the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and its goals to unite states in American continents.

The resolution urges the United States to reduce their number of agricultural subsidies. The resolution then calls upon the World Trade Organization (WTO) to research the removal of superfluous trade barriers in South America. Once the research has been completed by the WTO, the resolution calls for the WTO to offer advice on the removal of these barriers.

After accepting two amendments in the resolution, it passed with a vote of 9-0-2, with a vote of “no with rights” by Cuba.

Once passing the resolution, the committee took a five minute celebratory caucus before moving right back into discussion on the topic of regional integration in the Western hemisphere.

Resolution 2-2 was submitted to the floor by Argentina, Bolivia, Jamaica, Venezuela, Cuba, Peru, United States, Honduras, Haiti, Brazil and Ecuador. The five line resolution requests for the South American Public Works committee (SAPWO) to “establish the construction of international roadways, airports and harbors as a first priority with the majority of its assets: with the assignment of construction on roads, airports, and harbors specific o the needs of individual states. Resolution 2-2 passed.

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Legal Committee moves on to international legal protections for detainees

By Staff Reporter

Saturday’s session of AMUN Legal Committee ended with the acceptance of a resolution covering the topic of international legal protections for detainees. India, Nigeria (both represented by Pulaski Academy), Mexico (represented by Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School), and China (represented by West Fork High School) submitted Resolution 2.C.

The resolution calls upon individual states to take necessary steps to protect detainees. Efforts include adhering to International Court of Justice opinions, affording due process of law to all detained, and to respect the role of organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Chair of Legal Committee for 2006 is Aja Hogan, the Co-Chair Kelly Hill, and the Legal Counsel is Sagar Patel. All of the secretariat and staff of the Legal Committee are students of Hendrix College.

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Argentina raises placard on point of inquiry
ineptitude, arguing that implementing the resolution would squander UN funds. Proponents remained hopeful in the proposal’s effectiveness and encouraged delegates to support its passing.

The resolution failed after a role-call vote, followed by a round of applause. SPECPOL Committee chair Daniel Guyton commented, “You don’t clap for a resolution failing”, much to the Assembly’s amusement.

The Economic and Social Council addressed the Assembly next, reporting on the council’s passage of measures to improve the lives of migrant workers and people’s with disabilities.

The Assembly was interrupted when the Secretary General and Security Council entered the Assembly bringing grave news to the delegates now standing to their feet. The Security Council reported that the Iraqi prime minister had been assassinated by Sunni militias, prompting retaliation and continued violence. The Council passed a resolution in light of these events, condemning the violence, hoping for a new leader to emerge quickly, and deciding to “remain seized of the matter.”

Resolution 2C was brought to the floor by the Legal Committee to ensure the legal rights of detainees. The resolution commissions the International Court of Justice to issue advisory opinions concerning the rights of detainees held by foreign powers with regards to the detaining powers’ own laws. The resolution passed.

A resolution proposed by SOCHUM was also passed in the final minutes of debate.

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Are you involved in any other programs related to or involved in MUN efforts?

Besides serving as the Secretary-General for AMUN and president of the UCA MUN organization, I am currently the president of the UCA Student Alliance for the International Criminal Court (SAICC), an organization that advocates for the United States to join the ICC. It is not part of the UN, but I think they are definitely related.

I am also in the board of directors of the Central Arkansas Chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America.

In February, I will be participating in the Midwest Model UN Conference. MMUN is a college-level conference in St. Louis, MO, and I will be a delegate of Argentina.

What makes the Arkansas Model UN Conference most important?

I believe that AMUN is one of the best high school-level conferences in the nation. It brings 400+ students from all over Arkansas and the surrounding states to UCA and they debate several important topics, like the war on terrorism and the Millennium Development Goals. Another thing that makes AMUN unique is that it’s the only statewide conference in Arkansas.

Do you have future ambitions related to the experience you’ve earned working with AMUN and particularly as Secretary-General?

Absolutely! Being involved with AMUN helped me improve my skills in many different areas, including negotiation, public speaking, and writing. I am majoring in International Studies and I plan to work with different international organizations, but no matter what I decide to do in the future, I am sure the skills I learned through AMUN will be very useful.

Misc. Background:

Born in Sao Paulo, Brazil
Speak English, Portuguese, and Spanish
Major: International Studies
Minor: Honors Interdisciplinary Studies
Age: 22
Previous AMUN positions:
Legal Counsel (SOCHUM) – AMUN 2004
Co-Chair (SOCHUM) – AMUN 2005
Undersecretary-General for Committees & Committee Topics – AMUN 2005

Previous MMUN participation:
Delegate (Ethiopia) – MMUN 2005
Head Delegate (Brazil) – MMUN 2006
(I was awarded an Outstanding Delegate Honorable Mention)
2006 AMUN awards announced

Awards for the 2006 Arkansas Model United Nations Conference are as follows:

Outstanding Delegation:
• Argentina – Russellville High School

Outstanding Delegation – Honorable Mention:
• Spain – Pope John Paul II High School
• Pakistan – Russellville High School
• Nigeria – Pulaski Academy
• Philippines – Valley View High School
• Cuba – Conway High School
• Iraq – Russellville High School
• Honduras – Russellville High School
• Netherlands – Little Rock Christian Academy
• Mexico – Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School

Best Position Papers:
• Argentina – Russellville High School
• Belgium – Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Arts
• Bhutan – Home Educators of Little Rock
• Cuba – Conway High School
• Greece – DeSoto Central High School
• Honduras – Russellville High School
• Israel – Mount St. Mary Academy
• Italy – Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Arts
• Lithuania – Pop John Paul II High School
• New Zealand – Pope John Paul II High School
• Nigeria – Pulaski Academy
• Pakistan – Russellville High School
• Poland – Pope John Paul II High School
• Portugal – DeSoto Central High School
• Republic of Korea (South Korea) – Pope John Paul II High School
• Spain – Pope John Paul II High School
• United Republic of Tanzania – Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Arts
• Vatican City – Catholic High School

Security Council Outstanding Delegates:
• Jason Doll, France – Huntsville High School
• Andrew Hoelscher, United Kingdom – Conway High School
• Katia Kotcherguina, Ghana – Pulaski Academy
• James McKinney, Tanzania – Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Arts
• William Melendez, Argentina – Russellville High School
• Sean Stark, Greece – DeSoto Central High School

Economic and Social Council Rapporteur:
• Jessica Craig, Tanzania – Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Arts

Economic and Social Council Outstanding Delegates:
• Erin Courtway, Belgium – Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Arts
• Jessica Craig, Tanzania – Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Arts
• Mehak Gupta, United Arab Emirates – Little Rock Central High School
• Krista Lassiter, Czech Republic – Mount St. Mary Academy
• Jake Login, Denmark – Sheridan High School
• Matt Swain, Nigeria – Pulaski Academy

Special Political Committee Rapporteur:
• Nicholas Rogers, Cuba – Conway High School

Special Political Committee Outstanding Delegates:
• Adrianna Alley, Israel – Mount St. Mary Academy
• Alex Cooper, Bangladesh – Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Arts
• Kayla Flores, Venezuela – Russellville High School
• Olga Redko, Philippines – Valley View High School
• Nicholas Rogers, Cuba – Conway High School
• Rebecca Tompkins, Spain – Pope John Paul II High School
• Brandon Weaver, Argentina – Russellville High School
Legal Committee Rapporteur:
- Gary Noel, Argentina – Russellville High School

Legal Committee Outstanding Delegates:
- Andreas Bunjor, Germany – Pope John Paul II High School
- Dustin Crow, Lebanon – Conway High School
- Christopher Hooper, Spain – Pope John Paul II High School
- David Loan, Italy – Arkansas School for Math, Science, and the Arts
- Mandie Madzar, Russian Federation – Greenwood High School
- Kevin McGregor, Pakistan – Russellville High School
- Jeff Montgomery, People’s Republic of China – West Fork High School
- Trent Morrow, Mexico – Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School
- Gary Noel, Argentina – Russellville High School

Economic and Finance Committee Rapporteur:
- Conor Beath, Spain – Pope John Paul II High School

Economic and Finance Outstanding Delegates:
- Michael Beasley, Iraq – Russellville High School
- Jacob Dilworth, Jamaica – Russellville High School
- Christopher Evans, Pakistan – Russellville High School
- Julie Evans, Nigeria – Pulaski Academy
- Grant Hilton, Netherlands – Little Rock Christian Academy
- Chris Mullen, Benin – Little Rock Christian Academy
- Jacob White, Argentina – Russellville High School

Social and Humanitarian Committee Rapporteur:
- Lauren Sposa, Spain – Pope John Paul II High School

Social and Humanitarian Committee Outstanding Delegates:
- Kimberly Beane, Netherlands – Little Rock Christian Academy
- Jennifer Brunson, Argentina – Russellville High School
- Bailey Carroll, Honduras – Russellville High School
- Hailey Handley, Saudi Arabia – Valley View High School
- Katherine Hunter, Pakistan – Russellville High School
- Amanda Johnson, Nigeria – Pulaski Academy
- Judith Kanu, Peru – Mills University Studies High School
- Kanchan Malhotra, Liberia – DeSoto Central High School
- Kate Smith, Lithuania – Pope John Paul II High School
- Lauren Sposa, Spain – Pope John Paul II High School

World Health Organization Rapporteur:
- Blake Dixon, Pakistan – Russellville High School

World Health Organization Outstanding Delegates:
- Blake Dixon, Pakistan – Russellville High School
- Olivia Hutcherson, Iraq – Russellville High School
- Kevin Kim, Madagascar – Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School
- LaShundra Nelson, Thailand – Mills University Studies High School
- Trey Sylvester, Liberia – DeSoto Central High School
- Ben Wofford, Portugal – DeSoto Central High School

Organization of American States Rapporteur:
- Ty Bittle, Argentina – Russellville High School

Organization of American States Outstanding Delegates:
- Tazonio Anderson, Peru – Mills University Studies High School
- Willis Arnold, Cuba – Conway High School
- Ty Bittle, Argentina – Russellville High School
- James Foster, Honduras – Russellville High School
School
• Nicole Yvette Smith, Bolivia – Sheridan High School

Model International Court of Justice Rapporteur:
• Tim McGrath, Germany – Pope John Paul II High School

Model International Court of Justice Outstanding Delegates:
• Jillian Hinesly, Morocco – Pope John Paul II High School
• Tiffany Jones, United Kingdom – Conway High School
• Curtis Longfellow, People’s Republic of China – West Fork High School
• Tim McGrath, Germany – Pope John Paul II High School
• Dominica Pacsi, Jordon – Pope John Paul II High School
• Chris Young, Sierra Leone – Pope John Paul II High School