42nd annual AMUN commences

By Staff Writer

The 42nd annual Arkansas Model United Nations opening ceremony kicked off yesterday with faculty advisor, Dr. Mark Mullenbach.

UCA President Lu Hardin took the floor, and reminded students how important their involvement in current events and Model United Nations can be.

Next, Consul General Andres Chao spoke to students.

Consul Chao moved to Little Rock from New York City in 2006, to prepare for the opening of the Consulate of Mexico, which opened in April this year. While in New York, he also served as the Mexican Consulate.

Consul Chao has worked for the office of the President of Mexico. He has served as the Media Relations Coordinator and as the Private Secretary.

Consul Chao’s achievements include working as political attaché at the Embassy of Mexico in the Netherlands and serving as General Coordinator of the Presidential Office Affairs for the “El Universal” newspaper.

Finally, Secretary-General Tim Hurley took the floor to welcome students.

HIV/AIDS plagues world

By Carol Weeks

Staff Reporter

The HIV/AIDS epidemic affects millions of children every day. According to UNICEF there are 2.3 million children currently living with HIV, and 15 million children have lost at least one parent to HIV/AIDS.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a member of genus Lentivirus and family Retroviridae. It causes damage to the immune system, and this damage leads to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Towards the end of the disease’s process the infected person’s immune system becomes depleted and the individual is susceptible to infections.

HIV/AIDS is spread through bodily fluids. More specifically, HIV/AIDS is spread through bodily fluids.

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Legal Committee passes resolution

By Staff Reporter

Legal Committee discusses capital punishment to pass their first resolution of the 2007 conference. Representatives of the UAE, Burkina Faso, Ghana, India, Egypt, and Qatar submitted a working paper strongly encouraging UN member states to take action to restrict capital punishment when implemented, to ensure the protection of incarcerated individuals' rights, and to end capital punishment under particular outlined circumstances. The resolution strives to prevent the execution of children under the age of 18, pregnant women, and the mentally handicapped. This resolution was one of four working papers addressing capital punishment voted upon. Three others failed to receive the majority required. Each of the working papers initiated extensive discussion and debate that involved a majority of the representatives present. Delegates grouped into crowded huddles during the committee’s unmoderated caucuses as the Legal Committee is proving to be an active if only moderately productive body.

Delegates united for peace, split over sanctions

By Seth Thomas

Members of the Arab League unanimously agreed to repeal the long-standing economic embargo against Israel in a bid to jump-start the peace process ahead of the upcoming Annapolis conference. If adopted, the decision would overturn the League’s 60-year boycott of Jewish businesses and products developed in British Mandate Palestine. The League’s Resolution 1-1 also reaffirmed the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative calling for full Israeli withdrawal in exchange for full peace and normal relations. The resolution comes only weeks before the planned peace summit in Annapolis, sponsored by the United States. The League was less united when debate moved to Iran. Delegates could not agree as to whether sanctions against the Islamic Republic would effectively curtail Iran’s growing nuclear capabilities without damaging regional and international economies. A resolution (2-1) failed with a vote of seven for, seven against with no abstentions. Delegates will meet Saturday to finish discussing Iran and address the situation in Iraq.
Security Council creates trade embargo

By Katie Butler

The Security Council passed a resolution Friday 10-0-3 to put a small-weapons trade embargo on groups within Darfur, Sudan and create a cease-fire in the region in seven months if the genocide rates increase.

China and Russia opposed the embargo on small-weapons trade because some of the countries’ incomes came from the trade of small weapons. After discussion, the delegates passed an amendment to allow a seven-month waiting period before enforcing the embargo to monitor the rising or falling genocide rates.

France opposed the waiting period, saying a late-imposed embargo would be the same as having no embargo at all.

Russia, France and Indonesia abstained from the vote.

During discussion, a delegate from Sudan agreed to attend the Security Council’s meeting to answer questions about the Sudanese government’s actions in the Darfur conflict.

The Sudanese delegate said, “[The government] does not want to strip the Sudanese people of their right to bear arms... though small weapons [used to kill civilians by the rebel groups] is one of the problems of the conflict.”

The United Kingdom delegate drafted the resolution after 45 minutes of debate and 30 minutes of caucusing.

In other business, the Security Council passed a resolution 8-2-3 to send a comprehensive multilateral inspection team from the International Atomic Energy Agency to investigate all Iranian nuclear facilities.

While the Darfur topic was tabled for over one hour, Security Council members discussed the threat and justification of the Iran’s nuclear program.

The failure of previous UN sanctions on Iran prevented delegates from agreeing on issuing further sanctions.

“The council will not be able to agree on whether or not to place sanctions—maybe sanctions are not the way of the future,” Italian delegate Jack DeLoach said.

However, the council did agree Iran’s self-proclaimed nuclear enrichment program needed to be thoroughly inspected before any action was taken against the country.

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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: modeltimes@gmail.com
spread through blood transfusion, intravenous needles, and sexual intercourse. It is also spread from mother to child during childbirth and breastfeeding.

One of the concerns associated with the vast loss of life and affects on the world’s children is that HIV/AIDS is a preventable disease. By educating individuals on HIV/AIDS prevention the number of new cases can be greatly decreased. There are a lot of ways that HIV/AIDS can be prevented.

Many people believe that the promotion of abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage is the only way to approach the spread of HIV/AIDS. It is unrealistic to assume in today’s society that individuals will abstain from sex outside of marriage or for that matter, remain faithful during marriage. Furthermore, we must not only promote abstinence, but also promote the use of condoms when individuals do engage in risky sexual behavior.

Another way to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS is to educate expectant mothers of the risk of mother to child transmission of the virus. According to Wikipedia, an infected mother transmits HIV/AIDS to her child during pregnancy and childbirth 25% of the time. The transmission rate can be lowered to 1% if the mother is given antiretroviral medication and gives caesarean birth.

The spread of HIV/AIDS can also be reduced by educating the public against intravenous drug use and needle sharing. Drug use is a large problem throughout the industrialized world. More so, unsterile needles are being used throughout the world for tattoos, piercings, and medical treatment.

Blood transfusion can also spread HIV/AIDS. By being selective in regard to blood donors and testing blood donations for HIV/AIDS, the number of transmissions through blood can be greatly reduced.

Many developed countries already practice these preventative measures. Many children have already been affected by the disease, and it is important to address their specific problems and concerns. There are a growing number of sick children and orphans due to HIV/AIDS, especially in Ethiopia.

AHOPE for Children is a nonprofit organization based out of Vashon, WA. They are one of many reputable organizations who work to provide stable, loving homes for orphaned children infected with HIV/AIDS, and provide education to the community on issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Preventative education is extremely important in reducing HIV/AIDS transmission and limiting the number of children who are affected by the disease. It is important to realize that a large part of the developing world lacks the resources to promote education and treatment for HIV/AIDS, so they need our help. For more information on how you can help, see www.ahopeforchildren.org or www.unicef.org/aids.
Delegates from Belgium, Italy, Ghana, the United States and the United Kingdom were in favor of the issuing the “threat” of sanctions in a resolution so Iran might be more complied to agree with inspections of their nuclear programs.

China, Qatar, Russia, the Slovak Republic and Indonesia expressed their concerns about issuing a sanction without real evidence that Iran was developing nuclear weapons.

To ensure China and Russia would not exercise their veto power when voting on the resolution, pro-sanction delegates agreed if Iran did not comply with the IAEA inspections, a committee, with membership determined by the UN Secretary General, would be established to review possible sanctions against Iran.

Qatar and Indonesia voted against the resolution, and China, Russia and South Africa abstained from the vote.

The Security Council adjourned the day’s meeting after 35 minutes of broken caucus time on the Iraq civil war issue.

Delegates will resume discussion Saturday on sectarian violence, border-control, the “civil war” label and religious conflicts in building the new Iraqi government.

Delegates are in the process of writing a resolution which will schedule a summit between Sunni, Shi’a and Kurdish leaders.

SOCHUM tables Darfur topic

By Lacy Tyson
Staff Reporter

Yesterday at the Social Humanitarian Committee meeting, the issues surrounding infectious disease and the Darfur region of Sudan were discussed. To deal with infectious disease Ghana, Sudan, Syria, France, Nigeria, and Iran proposed a draft resolution urging the international community to focus on women’s healthcare in disease affected countries. The resolution failed to pass with a vote of forty-one to eleven.

A second draft resolution regarding infectious disease was drafted by the United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, Somalia, Turkey, Australia, Kuwait, Sweden, Israel, and South Africa. These states proposed to combat HIV and AIDS by providing more contraceptives to UNAIDS and collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO). The resolution passed with thirty-three for and twelve against the resolution.

A third draft resolution regarding the education of infectious disease in poor countries was submitted to SOCHUM by Germany, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, and Benin.

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SOCHUM from page 5  addressed the importance of educating people about the ways infectious diseases are spread, in hopes to prevent it. The resolution failed twenty to thirty-two.

A fourth draft resolution concerning the prevention of infectious disease was drafted by Portugal, Libya, Jordan, Belgium, Indonesia, Russia, Pakistan, Oman, Iraq, the Republic of Korea, and Venezuela. These states proposed to prevent disease by the funding of vaccines, education, and national campaigns. They specifically referred to collaborating with the Red Cross, the World Health Organization, and United Nations Children’s Fund. The resolution passed.

Two other draft resolutions were proposed regarding the spread of infectious disease. They were written for HIV prevention in children and to deal with the discrimination of HIV infected individuals. Those resolutions were tabled.

The next agenda item on alcohol and illicit drug use/addiction was tabled; the delegates felt the issue of Darfur needed to be the next topic for discussion.

Sudan made their position on the Darfur issue clear stating that there is no problem in the Darfur region. They also rejected any mention of humanitarian relief to the region. Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Germany all agreed that since Sudan does not want help from humanitarian organizations, member-states should not press the issue any more. They all referred to the need to respect the sovereignty of Sudan. Iceland suggested that since Sudan claims they have nothing to hide, they should allow peacekeepers to enter the country to inspect the Darfur region. Iceland further stated that if there was no problem the peacekeepers could confirm Sudan’s statement and ease the minds of the international community. Soon after Iceland’s statement the Darfur agenda item was tabled.

Today delegates may discuss tabled items such as the Darfur issue, illicit drug and alcohol use/addiction, and two tabled resolutions on the spread of infectious disease.