College 'UN' Teaches Real World History

By Andy Duncan

After denouncing the "Yankee imperialistic, warmongering, Wall-Streetish, complacent attitudes of the United States," Johnny Green yielded the floor to Belgium and flashed an all-American grin.

This was understandable enough: Johnny Green is from Parkin and is a junior at State College of Arkansas in Conway—and he didn't mean a word of it. He made his anti-American diatribe while "representing" Albania at last month's Arkansas Model United Nations session at SCA. But he and some of his fellow Model UN "delegates" were really looking ahead to the Midwest Model United Nations meeting in St. Louis which opens Wednesday. He and nine other SCA students, plus another six-member group from Hendrix, will be among 470 students representing 50 colleges to attend the four-day session. The meeting will be held at the Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis under the auspices of Washington University.

The trip will give the Arkansans a chance to match wits (and a knowledge of international affairs) with hundreds of other college students from more than a score of states. For the SCA group it also will mark the climax of five months of effort that began when they enrolled for the fall semester last September and began holding a weekly UN workshop designed to bring them up to date on the foreign policies of its member nations.

The Hendrix group will include students Bob Lyford, a junior from Conway; Bruce Ellis, a senior of Stephens; Joe Purvis, senior of Hope, and Jim Dunn, a sophomore from Booneville. Two faculty advisers, Gene Wilbourn, Hendrix dean of Admissions, and Lee Schilling, dean of Men, will also attend the St. Louis session.

The idea behind the meetings at Conway and St. Louis is the same: To give students an opportunity to learn about the foreign policies of countries by "representing" them. The same rules of decorum and parliamentary procedure of the real United Nations are followed at the SCA model meetings.

Green, for example, delivered his "attack" on the United States at a mock General Assembly attended by some 215 students from eight colleges and 20 high schools representing more than 40 UN member countries. Nobody was shocked at the outset, for each participating delegate was well up in a role he had been carefully studying for weeks.

Later, Green explained that, "my role is to oppose 'capitalist aggression' at all times. Albania is the puppet voice of Red China in the UN."

While Green was shouting into the microphone on the main floor, Simms McClintock, SCA faculty adviser to the College's UN delegates (who will go to St. Louis with the SCA group), sat grinning in the balcony. "I helped them prepare for the meeting," he explained to a fellow spectator, "but today they're on their own. I'm just an observer."

The truth of his words became evident moments later when he called down to ask a delegate to turn up the heat in the balcony. General Assembly President Schleifer rapped his gavel sharply and replied, "Your point is not well taken. It is not a parliamentary motion. Please be seated or I will have to ask you to leave."

Jimmy Jones, a Philander Smith junior from Blytheville, a representative of Cambodia, backed up Schleifer's businesslike attitude during a recess by pointing out that "we don't do this for academic credit. We're actually concerned with international politics." Jones was one of the many delegates who added flavor to the proceedings by showing up in the native costumes of their "home-lands."

Dog-downs in parliamentary procedure occurred several times when delegates trying to gain recognition used the wrong motions. Schleifer reassured one of them with a wink: "This is a learning process, isn't it?"

Many students felt that the Arkansas Tech delegation, representing Russia, was the slickest with parliamentary tricks. Each resolution was given an allotted amount of time for discus-
The Tech delegation filibustered by gaining the floor, speaking for most of the two-minute, 50-second speaking limit, and then yielding the floor to a delegate representing another "Communist" nation.

The Tech students apparently thought they had done rather well, too. After the meeting, Steve James, a Tech junior from Sylvan Hills, said, "We take full credit for the procedural break-downs. Representing the Soviet Union helped me to understand their thinking. But I'm still in full agreement with United States policy."

A FEW changed their minds. Robert Young, a Harding sophomore from Kennett, Mo., represented Jordan. He said the essential thing to remember when thinking like a Jordanian was 'Arabs are good, Jews are bad.' I've come to think that Jordan does have a gripe against Israel. They [Jordanians] have lost a million people and a lot of land."

Others, studying the same set of facts, came to an opposite viewpoint. B. J. Davis of SCA said he thought Israel "should be allowed to keep the land they have taken until Egypt, Jordan and Syria begin to co-operate politically, diplomatically and economically." Davis was chairman of a committee set up to prepare resolutions on the Middle East crisis for action at the General Assembly. SCA students served as committee chairmen and staffed the Model UN Secretariat.

The meeting was an eye-opener for Randy Russell, a Henderson State College junior from Pine Bluff, who represented the United States. "I was amazed by the number of small countries that would consult with the United States before voting on any issue," he said. "We decided that we had two main objectives—to defend the interests of the United States and to see that the small countries were not taken advantage of."

McCINTOCK, an assistant professor of political science and history at SCA, spent a lot of time around the real UN in 1965 while studying on a John Hay Fellowship at Columbia University. To explain his interest in working on the Arkansas Model United Nations, he tells a story. "During the heated negotiations," he said, "an American stood up in the UN and said, 'Gentlemen, let's talk this over like good Christians o o o' That's the idea behind our model UN. Some other nations don't function like Christians because they aren't. America, as the leader of the free world, must have leaders who are trained to understand the way people of other nations think."

The groundwork for the Arkansas-Model UN began in the fall of 1966 when a group of SCA students held a model UN among themselves, but last month's session was the first statewide meeting of its kind. Besides SCA, delegates came from Philander-Smith, Hendrix, Harding, College of the Ozarks, Arkansas Tech, Little Rock University and Henderson.

THE DELEGATIONS took action on three resolutions at the meeting. They adopted resolutions calling for a 50 per cent reduction in the fighting forces on each side in Vietnam and for international control of nuclear armaments. A resolution proposing negotiations between representatives of Israel and the Arab bloc was rejected.

A true-life flavor was maintained until Schleifer gavelled the meeting to a close. Then he did something no real General Assembly president would ever even attempt.

"We've tried to see how other people act," he told the delegates. "Now let's stand together as Americans and say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the 'Star-Spangled Banner.'"

And the delegates did something no real UN delegation would do, either. They stood up and did just that.
Chairman Rod Schleifer, State College senior from Sylvan Hills, makes opening remarks at SCA's UN 'General Assembly.'
Lloyd Hervey, Philander Smith (Cambodia) and Margie Hammond, Harding (Jordan) talk with McClintock.
SCA delegates to Midwest Model UN from left: John Boyeskie, Wayne Lawson, Barbara Boardman, Paul Lipsmeyer (alternate), Mrs. LuRene Jolly, Rod Schleifer, Linda George, Johnny Green, B. J. Davis; not pictured are Mike Thomas and Bobby Condry.