

## SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NEARLY REACHED

SARAH FLOWERS

The allied nations of Austria, China, Croatia, Uganda, and the United States met with the representatives from Colombia and Venezuela this afternoon to discuss a possible peace solution and begin a draft resolution. At this point, delegations are leaning more towards a solution that does not involve any expressions of regret from either side. A delegate from China expressed his hope that the matter would be resolved. "We do not want an apology – we want the government to agree to the demands. We want to see Colombia admitting that they knew this was going to happen." Both sides are adamant that the situation is recognized by the United Nations with all events being considered to be true, as many delegations are beginning to tire of questioning the speculations being brought forth by other representatives.

In the terms stated in the paper, delegations would like Colombia to admit its involvement in shooting down the helicopter. However, the South American nation refuses to assume any responsibility preceding the United Nations' investigation.



LUKAS KAWALILAK

*In the Security Council, Uganda argues for a ceasefire and the implementation of a peace agreement between the warring parties*

However, at press time, several clauses were under fire from delegations due to wording. One controversial statement would be clause 6(a) – "Encourages the Colombian and Venezuelan governments to acknowledge to situation as determined by the United Nation". This statement has proven to be contradictory as the entire

incident is due to a lack of information on the part of all parties, the United Nations included. As the draft resolution begins to undergo dissection, it will be interesting to see which clauses survive the question-and-answer period currently occurring in the Security Council.

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## HAVE YOU BEEN DEFAMED? TALK BACK.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Delegates, the climax of the conference is upon us: your successes and failures have been recorded in the columns of this paper, giving you glory or infamy. But do you protest, delegate? Do you believe you have been unfairly portrayed in these columns? Now is your chance to defend yourself!

If you feel you have been the victim of vicious media slander, you write a letter justifying your conduct to the editor-in-chief of the newspaper (npinkosk@ualberta.ca).

Since the strength of the media depends upon the strength of the pen, you can wield your pen for your cause.

Letters of protest (or letters to the editor) must be received by 9:30AM on Saturday. They will be printed for our final Sunday edition, vindicating you in the eyes of the world.

# FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE: METAPHOR WARS IN SPECPOL

SAM JEFFERY

Metaphors abound in the latest session of SPECPOL. The Responsibility to Protect was the subject decided upon by the general assembly, and a contentious subject it is. The use of metaphor only increased as the tension in the room rose, as the promised war of last night turned into a war of language. The “fire burning out of control”, at least, represents the same thing to all countries involved. It is the harm and distress coming to the inhabitants of the nation in question, the harm coming to those who must be protected. Also universally agreed upon is that something must be done. The method is the question, dividing the general assembly into distinct camps defined by their respective metaphors.

The most aggressive stance is that fire must be fought with fire. Brazil, Rwanda and South Africa maintain that only through strong military intervention can the people of a country be truly protected, citing Iraq and Sierra Leone as examples of where military intervention was necessary for the good of the people. This alliance is unafraid to stand against the United States, separating it from a faction including Kenya, Vietnam and Uruguay that seem to have similar goals. This unwillingness to

annoy the superpowers unfortunately is not new to the halls of the United Nations. The result seems to be a tendency towards respecting the sovereignty of a country at the cost of its citizens’ safety. The United States has long been fiercely defensive of its own sovereignty, vehemently opposing any measure that could set a precedent to be used against the U.S. at a later date.

The United States wants to fight fire with water, the water of international relations and communal action. Working with Israel, the United Kingdom and Afghanistan, the US is pushing diplomatic methods that will prevent any one state from being responsible. Once the metaphors broke out in debate they flew thick and fast, with Bangladesh bringing up the unhealthy creation of CO2 that resulted from fighting fire with fire. The response came back that when a fire is too large, firelines become the only method of control left. The “Fire Team” also pointed out that water is only effective as a solution to a symptom, and not preventing the fire from initially breaking out.

What of the countries absent? The list is at least eight strong, including India, Mexico, and Iraq. Is this the missing metaphor? Perhaps the missing representa-

tives have chosen to fight fire with empty air. But as any educated person knows, air will only fuel the blaze, forcing it to burn higher and longer. The absence of these key states may have taken the force of their arguments from their allies, letting space rush in to let the fire burn.

Truly, this melee of metaphors is a difficult maze to navigate. Faced with such a thick layer of wordplay, the delegation of China stopped using full sentences in her efforts to move the debate away from the topic of military intervention. The next time a delegate said ‘fire’, the Chair himself called for an end to metaphor. Perhaps



LUKAS KAWALILAK

## THE GAMES DELEGATES PLAY

CLAIRE WALLACE

Mischief and monkey business? Yes, indeed: these two strategies are just some of the many ways delegates gain ground on the great UN chess board. Though representing a country on the Security Council, one would think tomfoolery would be out of the question. Think again! Delegates seem to stop at nothing for a victory in personal interest. The topic of self-determination has already inspired numerous events such as arguments, rumours, alliances and even flirtatious note passing.

One would have to admit that it keeps things interesting; however, some countries seem to have been left behind on recent developments. Delegates who are thinking outside the box seem to have already found the strategies that work the

best for them, as Austria slyly demonstrated. What seems to make Austria tick? Having already roped in all allies in favour for self determination, the delegates from Austria are now pin-pointing the countries who are still sitting on the fence. Their new target is “Definitely the US! We believe they would be a great ally to have. Unfortunately, they do have distinct boundaries when it comes to the definition of self-determination.” According to the delegates from Austria, the United States may be to be a tough fish to wrangle.

Delegates from other countries such as Uganda have different views on what constitutes an effective strategy. “We like to play devil’s advocate, you know... shake things up!” Indeed they have, for Uganda

has already thrown a couple of well-chosen insults at Russia, in a heated conversation about self-determination. According to Uganda, Russia claimed their recent invasion into Georgia was merely “friendly”. Understandably, this caused a slight uproar in the room, as the Ugandan delegates chose to strongly contradict their claim. Uganda, using China as a pawn, stands as the lone wolf in the room, as all are in favour of self-determination but Uganda.

While some delegates may be passive, others are opinionated. The radically different methods these delegates opt for ensures an exciting and unpredictable race to the finish.

# DECEPTION POINT: CHINA AND USA ACCUSED OF FALSIFYING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION RECORDS

SAMUEL SHAPIRO

While Austria attempted to assert its position as the official France, the delegate from the USA was seen consuming large amounts of caffeine – first, an extra large cup of coffee from Java Jive, and then a Monster (literally) energy drink, following which she was quite jittery. Clearly, nervousness and a need to stay alert all point toward the highly suspected need to hide certain truths from other delegates... I speak, of course, of the conspiracy between USA and China to falsify reports to claim acceptable levels of their emissions of greenhouse gases, thereby providing an inaccurate framework for other countries to work with.

So far the USA has remained close-minded to most of the issues debated in the UNEP Committee, failing to take responsibility for its actions regarding the environment. China's role in this fraudulency is also quite clearly seen by its indifferent and disrespectful attitude towards fellow delegates, evidenced by wearing jeans – JEANS! – throughout the conference, chewing gum during discussions, and picking on minor, less influential countries. And while China and the

USA continue to have intermittent heated debates on certain topics, upon further investigation it becomes clear that this hostility is only hiding a much larger truth. Bullying, lies, conspiracy – clearly there is something these two superpowers are not relating to the rest of the world.

The delegates of Spain and Germany, whom I interviewed, were already significantly disappointed with both China and USA for focusing on large and obvious issues rather than considering more specific matters relevant to less powerful countries. This method of overpowering and avoiding potential enemies does not go well with countries genuinely concerned about the impact of large, irresponsible corporations on climate change. Other European countries (in addition to the aforementioned Spain and Germany) that have set strict limitations on annual emissions are shocked upon discovering deception in former allies; Japan is also outraged at this news of a libellous neighbour.

Key issues include USA and China's refusal to sign the Kyoto protocol, a document supported by a large majority of nations belonging to the UN. Instead of



Thar she blows!

UNN

targeting companies that fail to account for excessive emissions, they use their financial resources to create false ads and display seemingly positive progress of battling this most unfortunate problem. Yet another huge problem is American companies branching out into countries with slack laws on greenhouse gas emissions. Targeted countries include not only the cooperating China, but also other, less stable East Asian countries, such as Cambodia and Thailand. Although domestically there are no laws to prevent this, how could the strongest country in the world possibly justify moral correctness by engaging in exploitation of such grand proportions?

Austria has taken an aggressive stance in fighting this newly discovered injustice, with Spain, Italy, and Germany at its side. It is still unclear how other countries will react when they learn about this most deplorable truth, but the forecast is definitely not a sunny one. Hopefully, China and the US will take drastic steps to undo the damage they have done, but even then, their validity will be questioned for a long time to come...



LUKAS KAWALILAK

Smirking in the UNEP: the problem of relative and absolute advantage exemplified

# THE ALTERNATE UNIVERSE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL



SAM BROOKS

*There is a war, gentlemen: that should concern you.*

## SARAH FLOWERS

The plot thickened in the Security Council as more details unfolded from the aftermath of the crisis situation between Colombia and Venezuela. With many nations rallying behind peace rather than allying with the two conflicting nations, the delegations are finding that it is difficult to take a stance on the situation, such as in the case of the United States. Initially, the superpower requested that it be “treated as an unbiased observer”, but also voiced support for the proposal of Croatia, which stated that troops should be removed to stimulate discussion. However, the United States soon switched positions, offering support to Colombia. It appears that the Security Council’s biggest power is potentially the most conflicted member in terms of its foreign policy, which has led to the confusion of other Security Council delegations.

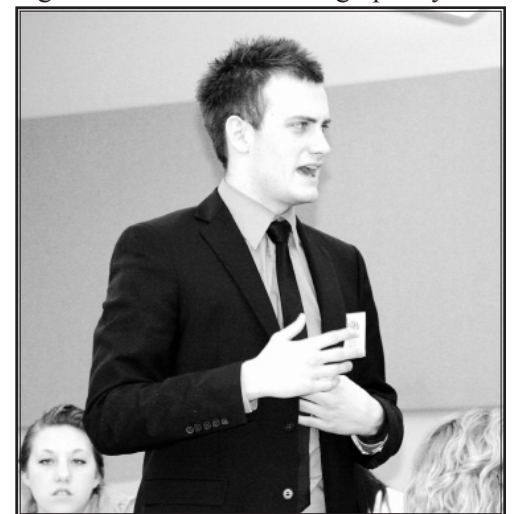
Throughout the debates, the People’s Republic of China has staunchly supported Venezuela. “We support Venezuela unconditionally,” the delegate stated. “The main issue here is FARC, with the Americans being the main detractors, as we believe that they have donated nearly \$300 million to support President Hugo Chavez. However, we do not encourage hostility and would like to have a task force in order to discuss the matter.” China, which asked that all quotes remain off the record, was also seen furiously

whispering with Austria during an unmoderated caucus. Austria, despite also attempting to avoid the press, expressed a desire for a peaceful solution to the crisis at hand. “We agree that this is a violation of international sovereignty and there should be peaceful negotiations between nations. Another thing would be that of international cooperation”, an Austrian delegation told the United Nations News.

What is interesting to note is what appears to be the power shift within the Security Council. With the United States trying out different political positions, lesser nations such as Austria and Croatia have come into the spotlight. When the crisis initially broke, Uganda stated, “This crisis does not affect Uganda, due to geography. We encourage discussion of this issue as it takes eyes off Uganda, which does not support the self-determination of all peoples. We plan to go with the views of the United States to avoid further aggravation.” Unfortunately for Uganda, the failure of the United States – as well as other permanent members – to express a clear opinion on the situation has projected the African nation back to the forefront. Later, the delegation for Uganda declared, “In absence of information, we cannot pass judgment. We cannot support one side or the other, and we must find a peaceful solution as soon as possible”, in an attempt to maintain an amicable stance

on the issue. At the same time, Uganda has also been providing some comic relief in the Security Council with stunts such as bribing the dais staff with chocolate and making quips such as, “We have Colombia blowing up helicopters and we are going to sit here and watch television?” in response to the temporary suspension of the Security Council in order to watch the United Nations News.

The country of Croatia has proven to also be a power in this seemingly alternate universe version of the Security Council. The small nation has been completely immersed in all procedures, but has shown particular strength in light of the situation in South America. With the arrival of delegations from both Colombia and Venezuela, Croatia sprang into action and essentially set off a barrage of questions for the conflicting nations. The nation of Croatia believes that “action should happen immediately. A round table discussion should occur before any military action occurs as it would cause the aggravation of an already-existing conflict.” Support for Croatia’s position on the matter has been shown by several other delegations, as at this time, it appears that the idea of a round table discussion is the most logical solution to the issue at hand. The nation is rumored to also be involved in drafting the first working paper of the Security Council. All eyes will be on this council as the delegations continue to work towards solutions that are both peaceful and in keeping with their nation’s foreign policy.



Croatia - SC

LUKASZ KAWALIKLAK

# BRIBERY AND BABBLE: SECURITY COUNCIL RESORTS TO GIFTS AND GAB TO GET POINTS ACROSS IN DEBATE

SARAH FLOWERS

After the delivery of two Toblerone chocolate bars to the Security Council dais staff, other nations on the council are following in the footsteps of the Ugandan delegations and plying the dais with bribes. At last count, staff members have received gifts from a number of nations, including the aforementioned Toblerone chocolate bars, a box Ferrero-Rocher chocolates, a large bag of Smarties, and a mysterious bottle. This bottle - rumored to be gifted from the Russian delegation - is thought to be either water disguised as vodka, or vodka masquerading as water while in a Smirnoff Vanilla vodka bottle.

While bribery occurs at the front of the room, verbal assaults are occurring in the rear. Nations are taking word-laden swings at one another, with nations such as Uganda adding colorful comments to the debate. One such gem coming from the dynamic delegates is the inquiry into whether the nation of Colombia is “snorting their main export”. Other nations are also jumping on the bandwagon. One nation slipped in that the number of Venezuelan soldiers in Colombia does not matter, as there are “a million illegal Colombian immigrants in Venezuela”. Another breach in verbal etiquette occurred when Colombia requested that he be found a new seat in the council due to his current location next to the Venezuelan delegate. As a solution, a Japanese representative quipped, “You can just take over Mexico, since their delegation never showed up.” The Colombian delegation thought the proposal would “probably be all right”, although his dreams of retiring from the international stage to sip margaritas appears to be a long way off.

The Security Council is still attempting to work towards establishing an apology to Venezuela, a move that is causing more strife within the council. With nations bitterly divided over which country - Colombia or Venezuela - deserves the international expression of regret, it appears that no solution is in sight. Some nations



SARAA MAHFOUZ

*Beware the delegates bearing gifts: attempts to seduce the Dias*

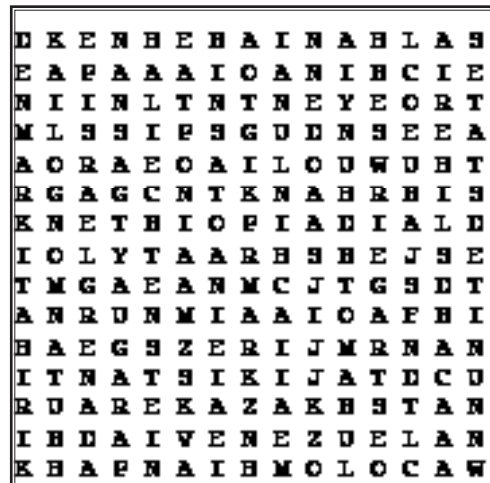
are attempting to remain neutral. Costa Rica stated, “We think that the apology may cause increased tensions if forced from one or both sides. An investigation is more relevant in getting the situation under control. As we are the only other South American country, we are concerned about the stability of the region.”

However, the concern of the Costa Rican delegates is being largely ignored by other nations. Perhaps if the neutral nation jumped on the bribery bandwagon, their concerns would find a voice in the Security Council.

## THE GANG’S ALL HERE... WHO IS THAT, EXACTLY?

LUKAS KAWALILAK

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Afghanistan | Jordan        |
| Albania     | Kazakhstan    |
| Bangladesh  | Kiribati      |
| Bhutan      | Liberia       |
| China       | Liechtenstein |
| Colombia    | Micronesia    |
| Denmark     | Mongolia      |
| Djibouti    | Pakistan      |
| Ethiopia    | Paraguay      |
| Ghana       | Tajikistan    |
| Grenada     | United States |
| Honduras    | Venezuela     |
| Israel      | Zimbabwe      |
| Jamaica     |               |



## GOSSIP: IT'S EITHER TRUE OR FALSE

MEAGAN CHIU

General Assembly I (DISEC)'s discussion on terrorism has some delegates completely riled up! Then again, how many only appear to be? How many needed an intervention? Who's frustrated with other delegates? Find out now.

**True or False:** *Did the discussions have Brazil playing solitaire?*

**Answer:** True. But... Defining terrorism? The topic in DISEC moved to that and stayed on that for quite some time thanks to several delegate members. Now one might ask, "Isn't the definition of terrorism already defined?" Yes, yes it is. So why discuss it? That was what Brazil asked and was, unfortunately, brushed off and ignored. So can we blame the delegate of Brazil for turning to the card game known for passing time?

**True or False:** *Did the delegates of Israel, Pakistan and Turkey get letters of intervention?*

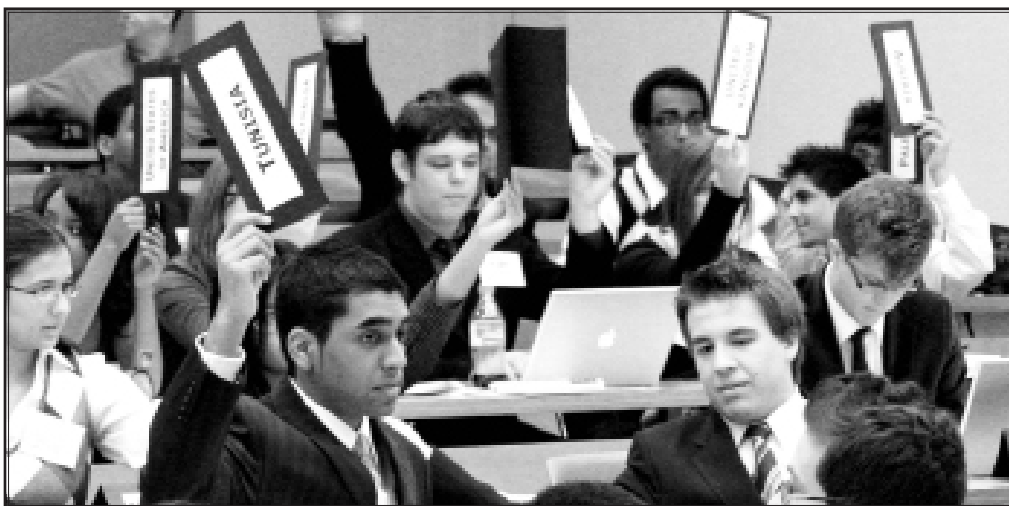
**Answer:** True. But... At this news, one might think something along the lines of, "letters of intervention *already*?" So let's clarify. These letters were from a foreign minister discussing the goals of Israel, Pakistan and Turkey and how it could be beneficial for all three to support each other. So does that really count as a letter of intervention? (But then one has to wonder about the second letter of intervention Israel received...)

**True or False:** *The delegates of Israel, Pakistan and Turkey have formed a secret alliance.*



LUKAS KAWALILAK

They look pleasant now...



Voting in favour

**Answer:** False. Because... Well, is it really secret if this reporter has just hinted at some sort of hopes of an alliance above?

And finally, speaking of alliances...

**True or False:** *Are the delegates of Afghanistan and Cambodia in agreement with each other?*

**Answer:** False. Actually... So far, Afghanistan and Cambodia are so far away from each other, if a planet were to explode by Cambodia it would take at least thirty light-years before the sound reached Afghanistan. Yeah. They are *definitely* in disagreement. Afghanistan has said that Cambodia is "bringing down the debates" and "making excuses and assumptions". Cambodia responded by saying "Afghanistan doesn't have much sovereignty" and "low confidence". Oh dear. How long will this tension last?

**True or False:** *Have several of the DISEC delegates received letters of intervention?*

**Answer:** True. But... Stacks would go out and each member in a row could get one. Several countries, such as the Netherlands, Bulgaria, and Italy for example, received them. In fact, the source which informed this reporter that "a lot of people" received them also stated that "the Middle Eastern and the European Union" were mostly the receivers. When asked about the contents, the delegates stated that the letter was less than a reprimanding for misrepresenting their countries with their opinions but more of an encouragement to unify their ideas with other members

of their league or union. In fact the delegate of the Netherlands, who has not yet voiced her countries opinion aloud, was also a recipient, which proves that these letters were more of encouragement then reprimanding.

**True or False:** *Did the delegate of Greece access the internet to look up the charter of the UN?*

**Answer:** False. In fact... The delegate of Greece was quite diplomatic when questioned and cleared any doubts by showing this reporter his laptop and its internet history which did not, in fact, hold any record of any such search. So what encouraged the doubt?

**True or False:** *The delegates of Vietnam, Iran and Indonesia had a draft resolution which was harshly shot down by the other delegates in DISEC.*

**Answer:** True. But... It's true that the proposal was not as warmly received as could have been hoped for. Especially by the delegate of Israel. Does this mean that the any of the three aforementioned delegates are upset at the cold reception?

**True or False:** *The delegate of Vietnam is upset over the cold reception.*

**Answer:** False. In fact... The delegate of Vietnam is OK because their foreign policy can be appropriately represented by other draft resolutions, like the Croatia-USA one. If only a few amendments were made...

## ILO, I DON'T KNOW

NANCY TRAN

At first glance, the International Labour Organization is a civil cluster of delegates whose main objective is to discuss social security among nations. In pretty words, the committee delegates prance around obvious solutions that are unfeasible at this time due to an economic recession. Almost all delegates can agree that there are ideas of what needs to be put forth. But it always ends up with, "If only money were present." Open your eyes delegates: restating the problem will not solve the problem. Think of another solution.

Upon closer examination this morning, Cuba, the supposed Marxist devotee, enlightened everyone that communism has its benefits as it allows one stable society. In a room filled with countries that have increasingly favoured capitalism, no one criticizes the obvious attempts to promote and endorse communism. Within one hour, the word Marx has come up probably at least five times. Again, although "repetition" and "solution" rhyme, they

do not have the same definition. It is nice to be reminded that Marxism and communism is possibly an aid to social security in terms of the economic state of this day, but repetition does not ease or solve the issue. Come on superpowers, *ahem* United States of America, are you going to take those pot shots?

Back to focussing on social security, an international spectrum was said to be most appropriate. However, how can countries reach an international agreement on social security when there is an obvious divide between the developing and developed countries? In order to overcome the gulf between the two, delegates should cease sending calculative and selfish letters to their allies, and instead, bond with their enemies. Even if the details of everyone's objective of ILO may be different, there is a common theme of helping the people. Therefore, please, no more long statements of "I Don't Knows" and suck up your pride to solve the problem.

## NGOs IN THE ILO

SARAH FLOWERS

In the ILO, delegates were debating the definition of a non-government organization (NGO). Countries also seemed to be confused as to what the organizations being examined do for communities on different levels. The United States, which demanded to know what type of help these organizations provide, was met by silence from other delegations. Hopefully, the nations of the ILO determine the definition and purpose of NGOs before the conference wraps up on Saturday.



Vietnam speaks against the world LUKAS KAWALILAK

## ILO: FINALLY KNOWS

VIENNA LUONG

After spending an hour in the room with the International Labor Organization, one sees that this is a committee that is on topic and focused. Their discussion on social security was highly successful. Maybe too successful.

Draft paper 1.0 proposed by Vietnam and several other countries resulted in a heated question period. Delegates have shown consistent interest and have asked many questions. One member has also asked four questions in less than five minutes. We praise this individual for her participation and interest in the topic. However, the questions from other delegates were hardly plentiful in variety. Delegates have asked Vietnam, "How they plan to get a major power like United States to sign on and contribute", and others asked, "whether or not the United States of America is even present". To this, a wise person in the committee room replied with, "The United States isn't the only country in the world". We would also like



The Last Communist

LUKAS KAWALILAK

to thank this individual for his serving of the cold, harsh truth.

However, when delegates start to request "the definition for 'strongly hoping'", one can tell that the discussion should—for the sake of everyone—come to an end. Since this committee is so full of wise delegates, this is exactly what happened. In fact, the

predictability and efficiency of this committee is rather chilling. A motion was put out to vote for draft paper 1.0 and surprise, surprise. The votes in favor for the paper were almost unanimous and were described by members of this delegation as an "overwhelming majority". Only one country, Cuba—the great Marxist supporter, voted against this paper and only two other countries abstained from voting.

Not only is the International Labor Organization efficient, they also seem to be somewhat of a lively bunch. Note passing seemed to be common among delegates. One can only pray that these notes are on topic and not flirtatious in nature. However, knowing looks and sly glances were exchanged between Argentina and Tunisia, countries from completely different continents. Are they plotting and scheming or is it something else entirely? Meanwhile, the rest of the committee has decided to move on to the second topic and another draft paper, by Vietnam no doubt, will probably be soon on the way.

## ILO: FEEDING GROUND FOR MODERN DAY TYRANTS

NANCY TRAN

The International Labour Organization, as said before, is a civil cluster of delegates. However in less than five hours, what once was civil became autocratic. The entire ILO is now in the shadow of Vietnam. Vietnam's latest resolution 1.0 on social security was passed with overwhelming success. Sadly, the repetition of Marx, five times an hour, did not enlighten the ILO crowd enough for them to question the autocratic ways of Vietnam. On the other hand, even though Vietnam is dictatorial, one must congratulate the delegate for successfully achieving command over the superpowers in attendance.

During the debate of the International Labour Organization, it is obvious that

there is a division between communism and autocracy. Specifically, the numbers are one delegate versus all others. Unfortunately, the new era of the international labour organization does not like to include capitalist lovers. Or capitalist countries either. The sole, fighting, communist delegate Cuba may seem to have lost its voice on supporting Marxist views, but it is still present, lurking in the background. "Cuba will still maintain strongly supportive of Marxist views and will continue to showcase them in the following debate." Good for you Cuba.

Will resolution 1.0 be implemented with the understanding of all countries' participation being voluntary? According to

Vietnam, the answer is no. Resolution 1.0 does highlight many important ideas that benefit the world especially developing countries, hence Vietnam being a developing country. But in some delegate's opinion, the future of this resolution can only be seen as dark and dictatorial. Therefore, should the ILO change its name to Vietnam's playground? All will see in years to come.

The International Labour Organization's next topic to be discussed is labour migration. A prediction can be made that again, Vietnam's draft paper will triumph over the rest.

## CAFFEINE, SUGAR, AND ROCK 'N ROLL: SOCHUM'S DIRTY SECRET

SAM JEFFERY

To the untrained eye, a glance at SOCHUM reveals nothing out of the ordinary. Delegates from every country are perhaps a bit stressed and stretched, but certainly that is nothing unusual. Or is there something more going on behind the scenes?

Look closer into the pupils of those diplomats in the General Assembly: They're dilated and vibrating ever so slightly. What you are witnessing is the effects of the drug of choice in SOCHUM—caffeine. The withdrawal symptoms are bare-

ly held off by the numerous covert trips the delegates make to the nearest drug den (going under the pseudonym "Tim Horton's"). The delegations of Lebanon and Palestine, confronted upon returning from getting their fixes, were adamant that the drinks did not affect their performance in the council. "It's just a coffee," Lebanon defended. Perhaps if the caffeine was the only drug being abused, it could be overlooked. However, a far more serious substance has since surfaced.

$C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$ . That simple chemical formula has a power over the minds of delegations that is irrefutable. The dealer even lies within the council itself, hiding behind the facade of the Pakistan delegation and distributed in the form of deceptively colourful gummy bears. These saccharine mammals are the Trojan Horse of mind-altering drugs. The atmosphere of the general assembly is tense, yes, but it can also be called hyper. Yes, sugar dominates the council. The delegation from Israel, when attempting to find a solution to the food crisis, suggested "cannibalism! Eat the Palestinians in order to solve [it]!" Clearly, the delegate was under the influence of that sinful substance, sugar. Just as sinister was the segue into the next topic, coming from Kenya: "Kenya does not believe in women's rights. We do not trust the wom-

en in Kenya." If this abuse of caffeine and sugar continues unchecked, I believe we can expect more of the same. When hard drugs are involved, morality cannot help but be discarded.

Perhaps there is something to this dependency. Perhaps this widespread addiction stemmed not from stress, but from a true desire to do better. Inter-delegation relations were as sickeningly sweet as the candy they were eating. Israel and Palestine (despite what human-masticating comments one party may have made about the other) agreed on the resolution. In fact, the delegation from Argentina was the only truly outspoken voice against the resolution. The delegate from Argentina also claimed to have had no coffee and only one gummy bear. Coincidence? I think not. Some nations expressed discontent with the short-term view of the draft bill (which focussed on support for land-holders) yet in the end could not help but pass the resolution in light of its universally beneficial clauses. Afghanistan in particular voiced concern over a lack of arable land, yet proved to be one of the most passionate voices in support of the resolution. Perhaps only when every delegate is under the influence of the same drugs, will they at last be convinced to think alike.



SAM BROOKS-

Bring it, honourable chair!



## CHAIRS FOR THOUGHT: INTERROGATING THE DIAS STAFF

SAMUEL SHAPIRO

In an attempt to discover the fascinating interactions between dais staff and delegates, as well as any amusing stories that might have developed throughout the three days of HSMUN 2009, I went around and interviewed certain chair-type people.

### Haitham – DISEC chair

*Samuel:* What are some ways in which you encourage delegates to contribute to discussions?

*Haitham:* Embarrass them, humiliate them!

*Samuel:* Can you give any examples of any such methods of humiliation?

*Haitham:* Take off your clothes! That usually gets them excited... Show some skin, you know how it is – gets everyone going!

*Samuel:* What is the stupidest thing a delegate has done?

*Haitham:* Provoked me and challenged my ruling, because it led to their subsequent embarrassment and humiliation by my cutting them up. I am an authoritarian, I refuse to be challenged! Oh, and also, Israel talking about how Iran stones and burns homosexuals and rape victims... yeah.

*Samuel:* Have you ever observed any highly unusual encounters?

*Haitham:* Israel and Palestine hooking up at a dance; people not being all over me – that is very, very rare.

### Robert – ILO chair

*Samuel:* Have you come up with any creative ways to get delegates to participate in the council?

*Robert:* Actually, I Google-searched the Random Number Generator, created a list of all the delegates and assigned each one a number. Whenever the speaker's list runs low, I randomly generate a number and select the delegate with the corresponding number. That way, all delegates are forced to interact on an equal basis, and no longer is there an excuse of being shy!

*Samuel:* I've heard you can get sort of weird and random sometimes. Comments?

*Robert:* I decided to throw in my two-cents' worth to get the delegates talking



*Robert displays his more elegant-than-thou nasal passages*

UNN

about stuff, and the alias I used was Robot Nixon. Don't ask why, it was totally random... I also yelp or act silly when things start getting out of hand.

*Samuel:* What is the strangest thing you have had the chance to experience in this or past years of HSMUN?

*Robert:* Last year, there was an entire 10-minute moderated caucus dedicated to hitting on other delegates.

### Ashton – SC chair

*Samuel:* Can you describe any outrageous behaviours or styles exhibited by a delegate in your council?

*Ashton:* Russia wearing a nametag on their head, as well as a mohawk today.

*Samuel:* Would you like to make any comments regarding the highly debated nature of this Mohawk?

*Ashton:* If half the oil constituting the Russian delegate's hairdo was contributed to international markets, the fiscal crisis of the present year would be abated.

*Samuel:* What delegation has stood out as the most creative thus far?

*Ashton:* That would definitely have to be Uganda, which has been slowly trying to romance us with candy and bribes. They also attempted, albeit unsuccessfully, to give us dais staff a ride home in their white van by luring us with sweets. Also, I have never been so impressed with any delegate as I was with Croatia when he

wore his triple-knitted turtleneck rainbow pipe-smoking Loch Ness monster sweater.

*Samuel:* Could you elaborate on the sorts of bribes you have been offered?

*Ashton:* Ultimately, a collection of Toblerone, Ferrero Rocher, and Smarties from the Uganda delegation, as well as an empty bottle of Vodka from the Russian delegate – the latter reflected quite clearly in the Russian delegate's rapport for debating.

*Samuel:* Any scary plots or situations of which your council should be aware?

*Ashton:* The female delegates from both China and Croatia have been trying to melt people's brains with their "brainmelt stare".

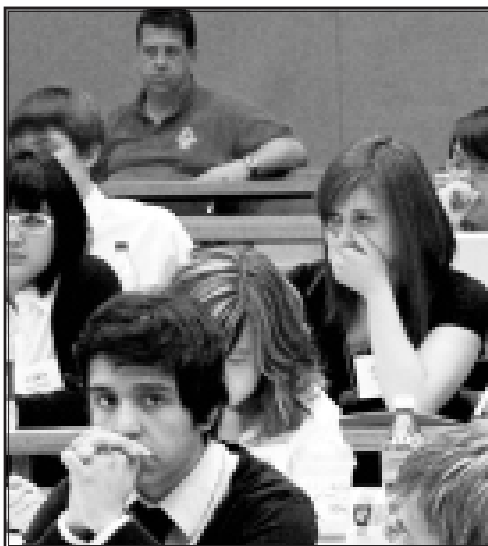
**REMINDER TO  
DELEGATES:  
WHILE  
YOU ARE  
DANCING, DO  
NOT NEGLECT  
THE WALTZ.**

# WHO? YOU! YOU ARE THE PROBLEM!

VIENNA LUONG

After a warm welcome was extended to the delegates in the World Health Organization, the committee faced difficulties when they attempted to choose the first topic of discussion. One delegate even stated, "Let's just agree to vote in favor for the next motion." Watching them try to make up their minds proved to be as painful as a root canal. Perhaps decision making would come easier to the delegates if they were not up partying the night away, for many members raced into the committee room late, and were seen with hefty cups of coffee in their hands.

The delegates eventually decided to focus on how better protection can help the fight against malaria instead of focusing on HIV and AIDS, because a cure for malaria "already exists" and the disease is "easily cured". However, the delegates were reprimanded early on in their debate because drugs for malaria are proving to be ineffective, and the unrealistic delegates underestimated the severity of the



Who's looking Pensive?

SAM BROOKS

disease. After deciding on their focus, certain members of the committee decided to break the topic down into "subtopics" and discuss each one individually. Way to kill time delegates. Reality check: Time is precious, and you do NOT have an eter-

nity to reach a conclusion.

An adjective one might use to describe this committee is "dull". However, the representative from Cuba certainly spiced things up when he brought to light the lack of opinion from super powers. Cuba took a direct hit at the United States of America and Great Britain. However, instead of defending their country, the delegate from Britain forfeited their time to the chair. Cuba's suggestion seems valid, for even Canada has more to say than the United States. Regretfully, his speech was interrupted when a sudden disruption occurred in which Iran, USA, and another country received confidential letters. Regardless, it is doubtful that these countries committed any serious offence. The committee is too lifeless for such a scandal.

Working papers are being discussed and one can only hope that the members in WHO will pick up the pace and will be able to get through the two topics by the end of the convention.

## SLOW DISEC-TION: POSSIBLE LOSS OF PATIENT

CLAIRE WALLACE

The legal status of apprehended terrorists has been a long debated topic among the United Nations. This controversial topic seemed to have similar effects on the members of the DISEC general as-

sembly, as heated arguments have erupted over the smallest things such as the definition of a terrorist. This hot topic seemed to have sparked emotions of aggressiveness among the delegates. Often a smatter of table slapping echoes through the room, representing support for fellow allies. Controversial indeed; delegates attacked opinions and views of opposing countries, leaving the DISEC room in a hectic yet passionate uproar. The draft proposed by Cambodia, Brazil, and Venezuela met its first challenge when Iraq indicated a fault within the criteria proposed for a definition of terrorist. Cambodia, Brazil and Venezuela's proposal encourages humane treatment of prisoners, and that all apprehended terrorists are to be treated as prisoners of war. Delegates from Iraq then took the floor to inquire why terrorists are to be treated as prisoners of war when the agreed upon definition of a terrorist utilizes the terrorists have participated in "criminal acts". The delegate from Iraq

however, did raise a valid point; shouldn't all delegates be familiar with the proper definition of the terms that are to be the topic of the debate? Seeing as the legal status of apprehended terrorists is an obviously controversial topic to begin with, the lack of knowledge on common terms within the debate further complicates the discussion. Moreover, the progressing discussion was once again needlessly distracted off topic with a letter of intervention. The many pressing issues the United Nations attends to require large amounts of discussion and debate. Why is it then, that delegates waste valuable time just because of their inefficiency in preparing themselves? Is it so difficult to abide by the most simple of requirements? The terms and countries given to the delegates long before the seminar even started should ensure that all delegates know their appropriate materials, rather than complicate already controversial topics.



SAM BROOKS

Some can speak persuasively

## CLIMATE CHANGE: THE PERVERSIVE BOGEYMAN

SALLY LOUISE HEATH

Ms. Reddekopp's article on climate change is incredibly frightening; for a news paper that prides itself on truth, you are dreadfully fond of publishing fiction and nonsense. Climate change is nothing but an old wives tale or something that small businesses and tiny nations concocted so that superior states wouldn't be able to crush them financially.

It's absurd to think the earth's temperature is rising. I live in Alaska and I can tell you it is still cold and my polar bears aren't swimming around my back yard, nor are they eating scrambled eggs.

Someone needs to call Miss Reddekopp on what she is. An earth hugging hippy who wants to see this planet fail. Poverty is all she wants to create. Does she not understand that if we start believing the garbage about climate change we won't have any industry? Think about it Miss Reddekopp, if we are all poor and eating bugs, there will be no one to protect your

precious polar bears.

Al Gore was nominated for an Academy Award, because he made a good movie, not because he had anything truthful to say. Seriously Miss Reddekopp, stop listening to democrats. Anyone who wants to fight climate change is a communist.

If you take what Miss Reddekopp said literally, we will all have to stop living our lives and we likely can't even farm anymore because of all the methane gas from cow! Cows, I say, she says cows are bad! And she's from Alberta.

So let's look at where she and Mr. Gore get it wrong. Carbon dioxide does not change climate in any meaningful way. That is like believing that the Earth is flat. Carbon dioxide cannot absorb an unlimited amount of infrared radiation. Why? Because it only absorbs heat along limited bandwidths and it is already absorbing just about everything it can. So the communists are even defeated on science.



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Now let's look at what would happen if we threw billions of dollars at this myth. By throwing money at this so called problem we lose the ability to use our money in other meaningful ways. We will face a situation where we can never offer tax cuts to the hard working wealthy people who most desperately deserve to have their hard efforts recognized.

It also means we must slow down industrial growth or invest money in alternative aka expensive technology. We must slow our industries when we are facing a global economic crisis. Does she not realize that one oil company adds one million dollars an hour to our economy? One million dollars!!!! Without that we starve, we lose our power, we will be taken over by Russia!

Furthermore, if we invest in this hogwash technology we support foreign economies not our own. Our local industries will go out of business. Just look at what is happening to Chevy!! Research costs money, which they teach you in economics doesn't grow on trees. Even my son Trig knows that.

And finally, even if this pipe dream is true, perhaps it is what God wants. Perhaps this is like the giant flood. Maybe the earth is finally being punished for our constant sins. If God wants to destroy the planet he will and there is nothing Miss Reddekopp or Mr. Gore can do about it.

But until that time Miss Reddekopp should move to Russia. It's cold there so she doesn't have to fear warmth and they embrace the communist culture she so dearly loves. Next time Putin and I are sitting and enjoying coffee, using our can and string telephone over our vast backyards, I'll put in a good word for you.

## THE SPECTRUM OF SPECPOL

SYDNEY

In SPECPOL little was happening. The delegates were either sleeping, playing with a Rubics Cube, or reading. The little information that was interesting was being spread by Finland. The UK and Spain had been talking up a storm, though Spain wasn't the only one the UK had been conversing with, they had been passing notes to Egypt, but about what we don't know... Poland had a few peculiar notes on their desk and about them as well, one from an unknown source requesting "come sit with me." And on Egypt's table was the most curious one simply stating "Poland Sucks!" though apparently they had not been talking much. The worst part was that the sound from DISEC was over powering the pathetic discussions in SPECPOL. With countries like Finland sleeping and Sierra Leon playing with a Rubics Cube during the un-moderated caucus, after several requests to have more time to finish their resolutions, it is unlikely they will ever find a resolution. And of course with comments such as "I surrender my time to

them," while Sierra Leone pointing to a general area on the other side of the room; it took the chair several minutes to get the delegate to specify that she surrender her time to Afghanistan. China questioned the bill, wondering if their only solution was to say to the countries "Stop that," like you would a disobedient child, which the bill representatives confirmed, it supports the idea that it is unlikely that if a bill is selected that it will work and be beneficial. The feebleness of the debates and lack of enthusiasm in SPECPOL was pathetic, where as in WHO the debates were strong and the people were passionate and enthusiastic. WHO's debates were concerning their two resolutions that were proposed and amendments that they wished to be made. During their un-moderated caucus everybody was up and talking. The delegates had also been naughty, they had been late or their cell phones had gone off, which caused them to receive threatening letters from who? Nobody knows...

# A FLOUNDERING NATION CALLED PAKISTAN

ERIN REDDEKOPP

Pakistan, the world's sixth-most-populous country and second-biggest Muslim one, is becoming more and more violent and divided. A Taliban insurgency is spreading in its north-west frontier region, gaining fuel from uprising against NATO and American troops in Afghanistan.

Some 120,000 Pakistani troops have been dispatched to contain the uprising but they have difficulty guarding the main road through North-West Frontier Province (NWFP). On February 3rd NATO briefly stopped sending convoys through Pakistan—which carry some 75% of its supplies to Afghanistan—after Pakistani militants blew up a road bridge in NWFP. A related terrorism spree by the Pakistan Taliban and allied Islamists, including al-Qaeda, whose leaders have found refuge in the semi-autonomous tribal areas of the frontier, has spread further. Pakistan has seen some sixty suicide-bomb blasts in each of the past two years.

Parts of Pakistan's vast and thinly populated western state, Baluchistan, are also in revolt, and fears for the security of Karachi are rising. Faced with mounting threats, the central government in Islam-

abad, a coalition led by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and presided over by its leader, President Asif Zardari, is drowning in allegations of corruption.

After a decade of army rule, it was inevitable that the new civilian government would take time to find its feet even during peaceful time. Mr Zardari, who inherited the party from his murdered wife, Benazir Bhutto, spends much of his time fearing that he too will be assassinated. His popularity is almost as low as the detested Mr Musharraf. A survey released by the International Republican Institute in December found that only 19% of Pakistanis wanted him for their leader; 88% thought the country was heading in the wrong direction.

However, Mr Zardari is mostly not to blame. After two years of political turmoil and spreading violence, the economy is moribund. The textiles industry, which accounts for about half of Pakistan's industrial jobs and foreign-exchange earnings, has been injured by gas and electricity shortages. A third of the textile factories in Punjab are said to have been shut down. In November, faced with the prospect of

defaulting on its external debt, Pakistan had to return to the International Monetary Fund for a \$7.6 billion bail-out.

The Taliban insurgency is a particular worry. It is fiercest in the tribal areas, which the Taliban more or less rule, but is spreading throughout NWFP and touching Punjab in places. On February 16th NWFP's government, which is led by the Pushtun-nationalist Awami National Party, vowed to implement sharia law in the district of Malakand, where over 1,000 civilians are reported to have been killed recently by army shells or by beheading at the hands of the local Taliban. This may or may not placate the militants' leader, Mullah Fazalullah. His black-turbaned gunmen already control most of the area, including its lovely tourism region of Swat. Fittingly, Pakistan's tourism ministry is currently held by the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), an Islamist party that has sown hundreds of radical madrassas across NWFP. The ministry has vowed to correct the "immoral practices" of foreign tourists in Pakistan, assuming it can find any.

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