

MUNificence

-adjective 1. extremely liberal in giving, characterized by great generosity

Interview with Michael Oreskes

Executive Editor of the Herald Tribune

Congratulations on your recent book, *The Genius of America*. Since you live in Europe, why did you decide to write about an American topic?

Well, first of all, quite a number of Americans come to Paris and produce wonderful writing about America, such as Ernest Hemingway, and Thomas Jefferson. I had also started this book before I came to Paris, and I finished it here. But living overseas has definitely sharpened my understanding and appreciation of America.

The International Herald Tribune is published in countries all over the world, so what are the challenges involved in making an international newspaper that's accessible and interesting to so many different countries?

That is the challenge — identifying stories that speak to people all around the world. We have no local news, so the articles have to focus on themes and subjects that interest the whole world, such as globalisation, migration, and the changing nature of business and government.

The theme of this year's conference is globalisation. As someone who's been involved with newspapers and the internet your whole life, how have you seen the role of the newspaper change with the advances of the internet?

The biggest change is that 30 years ago, people used newspaper to get news, and to find out what happened the day before. Now before someone picks up a newspaper, they've already heard about the news on the radio, on TV, and online. People at this point already know the news when they



read a newspaper, so now a newspaper gives the in-depth meaning to the news. It provides both the what and why.

How do you think the role of newspapers will change in the future?

We'll have to become adjusted to the idea of newspapers working side by side with the internet. I think we'll be seeing printed newspapers for a long time, but in increasing coexistence with the competition of the internet.

Do you think the IHT is representative of globalisation in a way, because it offers the same information to so many different countries?

I do in some ways, because I think it is both a product of globalisation, but also I think that it fosters it in some ways. It does create something of a unified culture, but its goal is not to eliminate local culture, but to create a broad, accessible culture.

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Interview of Michael Oreskes (cont.)

On Friday you talked about how the number of democracies is increasing but the quality in many cases is decreasing. How has globalisation played a role in that?

Globalisation has created a whole set of issues that transcend national borders, from climate change to the flow of money. These issues make it harder for democracies to make decisions within their own borders that are in that countries best interest. Globalisation puts tremendous pressures on independent democracies because these independent democracies are trying to come up with democratic solutions to problems that transcended boundaries. Take global warming — no one country has the solution, and that puts great pressure on individual democracies to choose between what is best for the nation and what is

best for the world as a whole. That's why many people feel frustrated with the systems of government today.

Finally, what advice do you have for students like us at PAMUN, who are hoping to become involved in the world politically?

Learn as much as you possibly can about as many subjects as you can. Then, realize that only knowledge alone won't get you through things for the next 50 years. The only absolute certainty is that the way things are today will change radically. Try to learn the ability to handle change, because the one thing you can count on is change.

-L.W. & M.A.T.M

Special Conference

Saturday morning, the Special Conference auditorium was filled with half of its members calling out animal names to the Chair. After inquiring a little, it turned out that all late delegates would have to imitate a duck, a monkey, an elephant, a donkey, a cow or a T-Rex.

The main clause of the day was submitted by Sri Lanka, establishing a new UN body, the UN Internet Monitoring Agency, which would widen the access to the Internet, but create a "blacklist" of websites encouraging activities deemed illegal. General worry concerned the challenge to sovereignty of countries and freedom of speech. The delegate of the UAE felt the clause offered investing opportunities to less developed countries whereas Australia felt it was a repetition of the previous clause. France addressed this split issue, stating that it felt this clause an impossible, "unrealistic" task and against the principles of freedom of speech and sovereignty. Ecuador claimed the clause to be "too vague and too forceful" and an "exhaustive effort" which would not be beneficial in the long term. The delegate of Zimbabwe submitted another amendment offering the blacklist sites to be monitored instead of deleted, so as not to infringe on freedom of speech. The amendment eventually failed. The Czech Republic submitted another, making the blacklist specific to each country. A debate followed, dur-



ing which a delegate used a politically incorrect example to illustrate his point and was sent back to his seat by the Chairs. The debate ended with the amendment failing and the clause being voted for by a vast majority. The next clause implemented the previous one, by introducing more legislation to incorporate the decisions of the UN Internet Monitoring Agency. Many delegates expressed the general

feeling that this clause was ambiguous and only completed the previous one. After a failed amendment by Algeria concerning harsh sanctions for abusers, a vast majority voted for the clause.

A total of three delegates arrived late during the day. The first imitated a donkey, whereas the two others had to imitate a cow and managed a small "mooh" before breaking out into giggles. The general feeling was that these were two interesting days, filled with debates and discussions, but there were too many clauses that resembled

each other or were slightly irrelevant to the topics concerning globalization. The last hours were spent passing out the resolutions, reviewing them in an informal debate, modifying and merging them, as slowly the delegates' energy sapped out and the clock on the wall received extreme attention.

-C.C.

Political Committee

Delegates coming late to the Political Committee were forced to do the “Chicken Dance.” The delegate of Czech Republic really enjoyed his show; it was no punishment for him!

The second issue discussed was “Implementing the Global Compact for Iraq” or GCI, an initiative of the Government of Iraq. This compact is chaired by the Government of the Republic of Iraq and the United Nations. It is also supported by the World Bank. They want to bring together the international community and organizations to help Iraq achieve its national vision.

After the lunch the debate started with some humor. Different categories, which included “Most annoying delegation,” were voted for in a mini awards ceremony. But the committee soon turned to more serious topics,

and as the delegates were fully involved in debating the topic, a crisis ensued, regarding a conflict in the Middle East between Jordan and Saudi Arabia over who the al-Diri belongs to. Delegates had to act promptly and find two submitters for each clause. Due to water shortage and extreme draught, the conflict became a burning issue again. Switzerland suggested solving the problem in a neutral state to find a consensus via negotiations and discussions. Furthermore, the committee urged the parties to find a valid solution without using military force and sharing the resources fairly, while also dividing the water equally and controlling the distribution by the United Nations. After one hour of debate on the crisis, the Political Committee came to a result and the resolution was passed with a vast majority. The Deputy Secretary

General thanked the Committee for the result.

Fortunately we could go back to our second issue — debating the clauses submitted. “Bad” news arrived during the lively debate. The co-chair announced that this session would be extended to 5:30 as a result of having started late in the morning. Cries of “Oh no” were heard in the room; however this did not change the situation. The delegates seemed to be a bit tired and exhausted, but speeches and points of information kept the debate lively. The second day ended with a finished resolution. At the end, the chairs presented the winners of the award, “Who is the most annoying delegate? the winner is Guyana!”

S.H.

Environment Committee

The delegates of the Environment committee met again today, more excited than ever. The delegates had debated only a few clauses yesterday, but were ready to go through some more. The new clauses seemed to have been more thought out and better equipped to deal with the issues at hand. After their last clauses were passed, there was an overwhelming majority voting in favor of the resolution as a whole, and a well-crafted resolution on the issue of water resources in needy countries was passed. After a short pause and caucus, the committee gathered again and started working on their second issue of creating safeguards to deal with the management and disposal of nuclear waste. But this productive start was cut short by the introduction of a crisis situation into the committee. For years, an Ecuadorian native tribe, the Sarayacu, had been fighting with the government and international oil companies because the government allowed the companies to build on their native ancestral land. Both the Sarayacu and the oil companies have been protesting and showing acts of violence to the other side. The Sarayacu has managed to keep the government from successfully building roads, but were unable to stop the government’s planned drilling. The Sarayacu are worried that the drilling will lead to mass deforestation and the extinction of several endangered species.

However, the tribe recently contacted Al Gore and told him of the troubles. Gore arrived soon after with a film crew and plans to make a documentary. The problem is that the world expects a video of the native's side, and this sparked angers from other tribes who want to be heard, and oil companies and the Ecuadorian government. The job of the committee was to give the official position of the UN on the subject.

The first clause was a clause designed to give up the land to the oil companies, and kick the indigenous persons out of the land with compensation and a place to live. Several countries applauded the idea, but many others protested it adamantly. The clause

was not passed to the overall satisfaction of the delegates. It was clear, however, that the house was evenly split, made evident during the voting for the second clause where the tally was 70-69 in rejecting a clause similar to, but more thorough than, the first clause.

Some clauses were well-considered and encouraged talks between the different peoples, while others unthinkingly considered further research, rather than taking immediate action to address the crisis. As the Ecuadorians asked for help, a resolution was crafted and the delegation voted on it as a whole, successfully passing the resolution to take immediate action.

-L.P.



Human Rights Committee

After being the single committee that had a signed resolution by the conclusion of yesterday's conference, the Human Rights Commission moved on to tackle the issue of censorship, particularly in regards to the Internet, and the role of the UN in the topic. "This question deals with the threat the media and Internet poses the world," the Chair began. In order to research sex trafficking, the committee's previous topic, and the availability of certain information on the internet, she said, "after being a part of a blog under the [pseudonym] John Smith, I was able to get the name, address, and telephone number of a pimp in Bangkok. [The internet] opens borders completely," she continued, stressing the importance that delegates recognize the strong influence of globalization. "We are the victims of the internet, though we don't think we are the potential victims" – a more dangerous realization than at first glance.

The story she relayed is one of many in which media sources such as the internet serve both as vital tools while simultaneously supporting the most trivial issues organizations like the Human Rights Commission are working with great fervor to solve.

There is no doubt that the internet has made many aspects of life more convenient. In terms of practicality and function, it is an ideally designed tool. This tool, which has the ability to foster incredible growth and unity, is brought into question for exposing content that perpetuates the growth of deplorable organizations and credos that the UN tries so vigorously to stifle (such as pirating, sex slavery, child pornography, inciting racial hatred, etc.).

The primary clause of the day, proposed by the delegate from Ethiopia, consisted of two main sub-clauses. The first discussed utilizing the international telecommunication union to counter copyright infringement and cyber spam and the second suggested the implementation of smaller organizations that would then employ countries to clear the internet of child pornography, websites promoting terror-

ism, among other such information, therefore curbing its availability. "We don't want to infringe on freedom of expression," explained the delegate. "What Ethiopia has developed is a very comprehensive and cohesive clause."

The clause, passed by a vote with eighty in favor, was deemed valid after satisfying concerns that the resolution must be composed of clauses that protect global citizens from sites that have intent to cause harm while still protecting the freedom of expression delegates hold to be so sacred.

It seemed more possible for delegates to create immediate solutions to already posted items online inciting criminal behavior than to come to an



agreement as to what preventative measures could be taken in a pragmatic fashion. But their efforts were not in vain as the meeting, with the encouragement of the Chairs, was propelled forwards, at some points getting rather heated, leading delegates to abandon their calm and focused demeanors. (For example, at one point, a particularly angry delegate chose to vent her feelings towards another well-spoken delegate in a note, writing, "I don't think I have disliked a country as much as yours and you as delegate. I would like to quote Fred Durst and tell you; "F**k you." Just a small taste of Delegates Behaving Badly. As our

Chair would say, "That's very naughty.")

However, moments like these did not deter the committee from achieving as much as the day before. Not only did the committee come up with another excellent resolution for their second topic between a much needed Kanye West music break, but when confronted with a human rights crisis, acted with poise and urgency to compose a resolution to be handed to the Secretary General after an hour.

The crisis was a new topic for most delegates, as it concerned the rights of the Uygher people, a group fighting for their land and their rights while the Chinese government displaced their villagers in order to create large refineries and oil drilling sites. The HRC stepped up to the challenge and passed clauses within the hour in order to accomplish the task at hand, handling the crisis with the maturity and attitude that should be expected in the United Nations.

After a quick break, delegates returned to debating the clauses that were to construct the resolution on censorship and role of the United Nations in issues of internet material. Whittling down the amendments and clauses to form a comprehensive resolution propelled the committee into the end of the day of conferencing, resulting in multiple well-written passed clauses that met, and in some cases exceeded, the standards agreed upon at the beginning of the day.

The committee's work accomplished more than one would assume. The involvement of the delegates in conjunction with the vigilance of the Chairs was a perfectly balanced equation. The success of the Human Rights Commission was impressive at least, and it can be bet on that many of the delegates in the room will continue on to use their ideas and intelligence to further influence generations and mould the world at their fingertips the way they see fit.

-K.K.

Disarmament 2

Saturday morning, already falling into routine, delegates from the Disarmament II committee resumed their positions of power and influence. Continuing their debate on the first resolution, the center of attention was once again the formulation of clauses designed to enhance the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to create greater appeal for remaining rogue states to become signatories. Two additional clauses concerning the request to not take any military threats or aggression as a means to force non-signatory states to sign the NPT and the acceleration for research for the use of civilian nuclear means by encouraging trade with Low Enriched Uranium, not usable for military purposes were passed. The resolution, even though regarded by some delegates as “lacking in substance,” passed with an overwhelming majority.

The second issue on today’s agenda was the follow-up on the ban of the use of anti-personal mines and their elimination. Landmines are still present in numerous states, as remainders of civil wars and violent conflicts. These once seemingly strategic measures currently pose a serious threat to civilian safety, whereas in situations such as in Korea, their use is perceived as a necessity as a measure of self-defense and maintaining peace. The first clause proposed by Syria urged all major military powers to sign the Mine Ban Treaty of 1997 and abide by its rules. India objected that forcing other nations to sign the treaty would not solve the conflicts regarding the inappropriate use of landmines, but rather offend national sovereignty. Yet with a small majority, the clause was passed. A clause presented by Cuba assures landmines can only be used for legitimate security concerns and need to be appropriately fenced, guarded, and marked. The following two clauses additionally request support in form of financial, technological, and humanitarian aide to countries affected by APM. After all, placing a landmine may cost only \$1 while the removal costs lie closer to \$1000.

The highlight of the afternoon’s committee meeting was not only a heartfelt performance of Britney Spears’ “I’m Not a Girl” by El Salvador, but also the appearance of the MUN Secretary General, Alicia Dry, announcing a matter of immediate urgency. In the middle of debate, the doors suddenly burst open at 14:05, introducing the hectic arrival of a global crisis, demanding the delegates’ undivided attention. After a serious incident in Angola, involving the death and injury of over 40 school children last week, the delegates are urged to compose a quick resolution to calm the public outcry and solve the problem at hand. According to Human Rights Watch, 120 Angolans are killed every month. How will the MUN deal with such atrocities? How will the committee’s masterminds create a possible solution within only one hour to possibly reduce the perils of 11 million An-

golans and ease public uproar? The delegates will be guided by the wise authority of co-chairs Kate Anthony and Muhammad Arjumand Masood.

Several clauses passed ensured the search for unknown landmines, among others using newly developed fluorescent plant seed technology to detect unidentified landmines, the marking of known mine fields by the government, as well as investigations as to the origin of the landmines. Furthermore, the landmines previously marked would be strategically destroyed. The delegation agreed to send medical aid to victims in Angola and provide humanitarian aid for the rehabilitation of victims as an immediate and long-term measure. In addition, trade regulations are to be set up, limiting landmine trade to nations with a stable government. Moreover, the last clause passed ensures the education of Angolan children regarding landmine dangers through a mass media system. Although failing, the Russian Federation did suggest the bombing of Angola to destroy all landmines after a mass evacuation, which was perhaps too drastic a measure in the eyes of slightly more cautious MUN delegates.



After completing the crisis resolution, delegates continued debating the unfinished resolution concerning the use of anti-personnel landmines. A clause submitted by Qatar and passed by the delegation urges governments to provide financial aid to any innocent victims of landmines, provided the areas were not clearly marked. Syria further suggested an extension of the Mine Ban Treaty to include

cluster munitions and to expand the definition of “land mines.” “This (carpet bombing) is fantastic to take down large number of troops... unfortunately, numerous ones (cluster bombs) do not detonate,” expanded Sri Lanka. “These then become like many land mines... It is outrageous for the US to have painted their incendiaries as UN aid packages (in Iraq).”

The Philippines followed with a proposal encouraging all APM producers to cease production of child-aimed APMs such as “Butterfly Mines.” Slovakia could not resist putting his fellow delegate on the spot by clarifying the momentary existence of restrictions placed on such productions. Nevertheless, this clause too was passed by the house.

“Give it your thumbs up!” urged one delegate when debating the resolution as a whole. And following these wise words, the resolution gained the majority’s concurrence and was passed under enthusiastic applause by the house.

-J.B.

Security Council

In the midst of discussing a clause pertaining to the situation in Somalia, the Security Council Committee became aware of a crisis at 1:52 PM when the Secretary General ran in to announce it. The state of affairs is critical between the PKK and Turkey. According to the document the delegates received, on November 28th, 2007, Turkish troops crossed the border into Syria, Iraq and Iran, on a “search and destroy” mission against the PKK. In an atmosphere of crisis, the Security Council gathered to assess the situation and find an acceptable solution to the crisis.

PKK representatives have threatened that PKK has acquired the capacity to destroy the main GAP Ataturk Dam if the military operations were not immediately discontinued. The delegates were given 45 minutes to come up with clauses in reaction to the crisis but unfortunately failed to pass a resolution after debate on the clauses. When asked to comment on the crisis, the delegate of Turkey predictably stated, “We refuse to cooperate with the PKK. We are going in. We have already deployed forces and we are not withdrawing until a solution has been found. We will continue to protect the rights of the Turkish people.” This statement was supported by the first clause that passed, submitted by South Korea, which encouraged the continuation of Turkish military actions against the Kurdish PKK terrorist organization. South Korea, along with the other six countries that co-signed the clause, stood by the claim that there will be no negotiation with organizations that are considered terrorist groups. The second passed clause, submitted by the United Kingdom, demanded immediate intervention of UN command troops from appropriate sources or to secure the Ataturk Dam and any surrounding hydro-infrastructure,



in co-operation with the Turkish military. The United States delegate, a co-signer, commented that “The Ataturk Dam is in danger and this is a big problem since it is also going to affect Iraq.” The third clause that passed, submitted by the Republic of Congo, wished to encourage the Turkish troops to avoid any superfluous bloodshed when fighting PKK militants. The fourth passed clause referred to another side of the issue, as the clause (submitted by India) urged the government of Turkey to engage in dialogue with NGO’s and Kurdish members of the Turkish

parliament, to make sure the rights of the Kurdish people continue to be represented. The delegate of China questioned Turkey, who co-signed the clause, whether their rights would really be maintained since there have been uprisings by the Kurds in Turkey in the past. The fifth passed clause, submitted by the USA, recommended that Turkish and UN command troops remain in the area after securing the Ataturk Dam to guarantee its safety.

However, the inclusion of NATO forces in the situation proved to be a controversial topic, as the Russian Federation and especially China, expressed the opinion that NATO should not be involved. The United States and the United Kingdom held the opposite view and felt that instead of ‘UN command forces from appropriate sources,’ NATO is the organization that should be involved. Because of this, the United States and United Kingdom voted against the resolution and due to their veto power, the Security Council was not able to pass the resolution.

-S.K.

Disarmament 1

It appeared that all in Disarmament Committee 1 had a good time last night at the social, as delegates arrived later than usual. However, the Chairs soon woke everyone up with news that the microphones were now in use. Delegates were thrilled by this previously absent privilege: taking turns to make sure theirs worked. The first session commenced with further caucusing time on the second resolution: a follow up on SC Resolution 1540 on the threat of global peace and security of NBC proliferation.

China, once again, kept up a relentless pace by submitting the first clause. It requested the UN to aid willing countries with the dismantlement of WMDs. An amendment was made and passed by Ger-

many. After considerable debate and despite considerable opposition, the clause was passed. Another clause was submitted by Costa Rica, requested a representative to be sent to member states in order to regulate national stockpiles, and furthermore imposing economic sanctions upon states which do not divulge information concerning NBC weapons. China indicated that this was a breach of national sovereignty, and an attempt to illegally collect state secrets. Costa Rica retorted by stating it was the only way forward if the UN wishes to solve this issue. Again after lengthy debate, this clause was passed. China and Costa Rica continued their disputes when discussing the next clause, again, submitted by Costa Rica.

Disarmament 1 (cont.)

Soon after lunch – during Sierra Leone’s clause submission – Secretary General Alicia Dry burst into the committee and screamed “There has been a crisis!” demanding that a solution be made within the hour. Chair Giulia Repetto explained the situation further, notifying delegates that a group of school children had wandered unaware into a minefield in Angola and numerous mines were detonated. Many casualties had occurred, and the committee was to find a solution immediately. After caucusing time, the delegate of Ghana proposed provisional medical and mental treatment for those involved. Some believed this was avoiding the main issue at hand; however Ghana countered with the argument that the UN cannot ignore those directly affected by the incident. This clause was passed unanimously. Sierra Leone continued with the call for the ban of all landmines. This was passed by an overwhelming majority. Within clause three, the Netherlands proposed a similar solution, where mines should be removed or dismantled throughout war-torn countries. Costa Rica, the co-submitter, confidently explained that this



clause was “tuned to perfection.” Despite this, the delegation’s clause was passed. China also proposed a similar solution, which many deemed redundant, and this resulted in its failing. When approaching the end of the hour, the resolution was debated as a whole. Angola thanked its fellow delegates for their impressive support. China found the resolution admirable yet vague. The delegation urged the committee to vote against the resolution as it would “harm more people than it would save.” After restricted debate, the resolution as a whole was passed. A resounding applause echoed throughout the room!

When returning to the second resolution, Sierra Leone again submitted a clause. This proposed the UN having sole ownership of nuclear weapons. Angola supported this proposal, but was then hammered by numerous points of information. Conclusively, after extensive discussion, this clause failed. The resolution as a whole was then debated; considerable discussion resulted in the resolution passing.

-SJK

Ecosoc Crisis struck today!

The second Ecosoc meeting had to put all debates aside today at 2pm, due to an economic and civil crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since the urgency of the situation put forward by the UN Secretary General required full attention from all delegates, their fervent discussions on previous issues had to be postponed.

The market of Coltan, a mineral essential in the high-tech industry, has greatly increased in recent years, leading to major conflicts in Congo – something that wealthy countries seem to be ignoring. After a few minutes of intense discussions, the Ecosoc commission succeeded in submitting a resolution in which they not only agreed to send UN peacekeeping forces to the area, but also to create “safe zones” which they would protect at all costs, while requesting multinational corporations to continue buying 50% of Coltan from the DRC.

Projects for a better future seem to be spiraling today at the Ecosoc. Countries seem truly determined to change their attitude towards the world economy, and they are evidently aware that, in this age of globalization, new challenges require new, universal actions. Angola’s sug-

gestion that world banks reduce interest rates for present/future loans between MEDCs and LEDCs to 0% — an idea that once would have probably been welcomed by many – was in fact opposed by the Netherlands and China, who hold that “it would cripple their institutions, for banks need interest rates in order to survive” and that therefore “LEDCs will ultimately suffer from such change.”

(continued on page 7)



Ecosoc (cont.)

There is universal agreement among Ecosoc delegates regarding the fact that current projects only aim at solving short-term issues, while what the world needs now is to “look ahead.” Saudi Arabia’s resulting emphasis on the need for the World Bank to finance a long term social program that would send advisors with diplomatic status to ensure long-term economic growth and social development as a complement to the HIPC Initiative was therefore strongly supported. “We cannot,” added the delegate of Sri-Lanka, “have financial aid without the means to implement it.” He thus emphasized that international organizations should include technological information in addition to financial aid. Although some argued that such programs already exist, an overwhelming majority disagreed: “the UN could do better”. “We are sick and tired of talking and not walking,” concluded the delegate of China.

Effective work has been done on the topic of multinational firms in developing countries. Delegates agreed on the importance of personnel’s physical and mental conditions, and of making sure that employers do not infringe Human Rights or the Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially as a result of discrimination against gender or race. They supported the Czech Republic’s suggestion that a UN group



should be set up and work in conjunction with industrial leaders in LEDCs and multinational corporations. Above all, delegates agreed that working hours for children should not exceed 25 per week, while another 25 hours should be dedicated to education.

“Countries should be free,” reaffirmed the delegate of Algeria fully supported by China, “to defend themselves against multinationals which seem to be damaging their way of life,” and to be able to “get rid of such threats.” The commission did not agree, and no solution was found in this respect.

Globalization is changing the world’s economy, as well as people’s lives and values. The Ecosoc succeeded not only in providing us with possible answers, but, above all, in demonstrating the significance of inter-cultural dialogue for solutions to be found.

-E.P.

Admin Staff Article

It was a fairly hectic start for the administrative (known as “admin” to most) staff this year. In the little amount of time left, the staff had to deal with missing meetings due to sports tournaments and those famous Parisian strikes. Some students slaved away and stayed after school on the days of the strikes to get the work done, while others came in on the weekends and spent hours in what is known as the ‘War Room,’ where everything is handled. Some worked during the school day when they had a free block, and some even spent their afternoons at home cutting up lunch tickets with their own paper cutters! ‘What a committed group!’ one might say. Fortunately in the end, the admin staff (approximately 30 students) has managed to make the 800 placards, folders, and badges for all the guests attending this 2007 PAMUN conference.

But the work isn’t nearly finished! Once all the delegates finally made it to Paris, the real jobs could begin. Running around in school making hundreds of photocopies with only three photocopiers, cutting all the

badges and correcting all the typos, as well as figuring out all the paperwork that went in each committee folder is just a sample of the work involved for a member of admin staff. But there are highlights. As dull as it may sound, being a notepasser in a committee is a position all admin staff members strive to hold. While the delegates are discussing their PAMUN ordeals, the admin staff gets to see what really lies beneath their façade as they read the oftentimes unprofessional notes being passed between delegates. Despite this fun distraction, the work of an admin staff member is difficult, and this year’s head of Admin Staff, Louis Blavet, “Hope [s] that the Admin staff will be treated with respect this year, and that good relations between staff members and delegates will be formed. Let’s all make sure that the conference runs smoothly and successfully. Like many others have already done, I welcome all of you again to the UNESCO headquarters, and hope you enjoy your stay!”

-L.B.

Confiscated Notes...

“The delegate from China has a crush on the delegate from Antigua. I heard from Chile who heard from Croatia who heard from Cuba.”

“I only asked about your socks because I want to peel them off and nibble your toes you sexy thing.”

“That’s the way uh-huh-uh-huh I like it...”

“Are you even a real country?”

“You also have 2.5 billion people. Either you’re cloning a lot or you’re shagging like rabbits. And since you all look similar but not identical, I’m going with the latter.”

“We the delegates of the Admin Staff, strongly feel we should have our own placard and be able to debate freely. If no, we begin a war!”

“I’m the chair, I have the power, I declare! I’m stronger than you!...I’ll never leave my infinite power to you!”

“Switzerland is sexiest.”

“Delegate of [name removed] requests to have the facebook of Alicia Dry.”



Letter from the Editors

Delegates, Chairs, Admin Staff, and Others-

We, the Press Team, would like to make one thing abundantly clear: we are no technophobes. We’re all for the articles on USB keys, email attachments, digital cameras, and all the other million little things that make life easier for a reporter. Even the most technology-resistant of us has been known to dip into Wikipedia (that most frowned-upon website by school administrators and IB advisors) to do a bit of quick article research. So we want you to understand fully our position when we say that we could happily live the rest of our lives without hearing the words, “My battery died, and my article’s only halfway done!” Without being confronted with the great mystery of UNESCO wireless (why do only some laptops receive a connection? Are they somehow blessed?) Without going elbow-deep in ink and crumpled, singed paper in an attempt to clean out



the 657th photocopier jam of the day.

But you know what? Despite all these grievances, it was still worth it to see the excitement on delegates’ faces as they received an issue that talked about a clause they had written, or recognized a note on the back page. And although we do complain about the glitches, we did end up learning a few interesting things about electronics. Did you know, for example, that USB keys shaped like Chewbacca will be recognized by more laptops than any other type? Or that one of UNESCO’s photocopiers is much less prone to paper jams if you sing to it (The Spice Girl’s “Wannabe” proved to be particularly effective.)? It was as much of a learning experience for us as it was for you, and we thank you, readers, for being patient with our delayed (occasionally hand-stapled) issues, and for being nice enough not to point out the mistakes in our amateur crosswords.

-L.W. & M.A.T.M.

A big thank you to Mr. Reshef for organizing this fabulous conference!