

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

Simulation of the United Nations' task leaves student in awe

By Shealyn McGuire
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As an institution, the United Nations is to be commended for its ideals. It is an organization that brings nations of the world together, and has provided numerous short-term and long-term answers to international crises. Yet just how efficient and effective is the United Nations?

One way to answer this question is to simulate the workings of the United Nations on a smaller scale. Every year, Model United Nations clubs provide several opportunities for such a comparison, to students interested in international politics.

In March, for example, a conference will be held at the University of Rochester for high school Model U.N. clubs. There, students will represent different member countries of the real United Nations and debate the current international issues in a mock session of separate, specialized sub-committees. At earlier conferences, this experience proved to be very exciting, when each country was represented realistically and with the proper foreign policy.

Recently, I was among 19 Rochester-area students who were privileged to participate in the International Model United Nations Conference, which took place in Den Haag (The Hague) in the Netherlands.

Nearly 2,000 students from schools all over the world came together to simulate the United Nations. Each school did not necessarily represent its actual homeland. For example, our delegation received the assignments of Byelorussian S.S.R. and the Ukrainian S.S.R. (These sovereign countries, as entities considered separately from the U.S.S.R., were granted recognition by the United Nations in 1944 in order to balance the pro-western versus pro-communist vote in the General Assembly.)

This assignment was particularly difficult because, in role playing, we had to go against our own beliefs, assuming the communist "attitude" and proclaiming its ideals. This took a tremendous amount of preparation.

Once we were notified of our acceptance into the program, we immediately began researching background information about the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Two nights every week, all of us met in Rundell Library to help each other with the required research and even learn a bit of conversational Dutch. This schedule started in November and continued until mid-January. As soon as we had accumulated sufficient background information, we were assigned to sub-committees of the General Assembly.

My committee dealt with the question of apartheid in South Africa. (Surprisingly enough, the Soviet Union is also anti-apartheid, yet for different reasons from the United States.) I then had to propose a resolution to the problem. Developing my proposal took up the remainder of my time at the conference, because it had to be presented from the communist point of view.

Fortunately, after writing to the Ukrainian and Byelorussian embassies in Washington, I received numerous pamphlets and copies of



During a break from conference sessions, participants took time out from solving international "crisis" to ice skate on Rottermeer Pond in Den Haag, Netherlands.



This Tower of London tour guide has been a "Beefeater" for almost 40 years, according to Mercy's Shealyn McGuire, who toured London as part of a five-day International Model United Nations Conference.

actual speeches on this topic, made by Soviet ambassadors to the United Nations.

After almost three months' worth of preparation, I decided that it would be "in my country's best interest" to grant voting status to the African National Congress (the true representatives of the African people), and to deny South Africa their observer status in the General Assembly until the state of emergency was lifted. This was the main focus of my resolution.

Finally, on January 22, intensely prepared — not to mention overly excited — the 20 of us departed for the Netherlands with our two chaperones, R. Jerome Warren and



This Dutch inn is similar to the one Rochester-area students stayed in during their five-day visit in Den Haag.

Martha-Hansen Zimmer.

Perhaps as a "reward" for our dedicated study, we were able to enjoy our first five days in Amsterdam, even though they were spent on educational touring rather than relaxing. During our stay there, we were able to explore such monuments as the Rijks-museum (Holland National Museum, containing the largest collection of works by the Dutch painter, Rembrandt), the Van Gogh museum and the Anne Frank House. We also witnessed the sad realities of the red light district. We experienced a mix of Indonesian and Dutch culture in a variety of restaurants, and were introduced to the comfort of eiderdown quilts in an old Dutch inn.

Once we were over our initial culture shock and jet lag, the group proceeded to Den Haag, where we were greeted by our Dutch host

families. This was the beginning of our International Model United Nations experience.

The home of the family I stayed with was about a mile from the Congresgebouw (National Convention Center) and next door to the Peace palace (the International Court of Justice). I was very fortunate to have such easy access to these buildings. This was where we would be politicking and debating for the next five days.

The first two days were spent lobbying in an open forum. Luckily, the official language of the IMUN was English, so I had no trouble meeting my "fellow delegates." Most of the students were sons or daughters of ambassadors or diplomats to other nations.

Continued on facing page

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HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 20 correct entries identifying "Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid" as the movie which featured the B.J. Thomas hit "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head."



The winner was
Jennifer Ernst of
Mercy High School

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:
From what 1972 song do the following lyrics come from?
"Starry, starry night, paint your pallet blue and grey."

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Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave. All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

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