

# ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

## Equal Time

DeSales High School  
What person or people in society do you feel are overrated or underrated?

### JOHN SEARS, junior

I feel that pro sports players are overrated. They are paid too much and receive too much publicity for just playing sports. The American Olympic athletes are underrated, because America is the only country that doesn't pay its Olympic athletes.



### SEAN MURPHY, senior

I feel that the American mass media are overrated, because too often, methods of exploitation and sensationalism are used at the expense of the truth. The intelligence of the American people is underrated by advertisers who use cheap commercialism and propaganda to sell their products.



### BILL LEIGH, senior

I feel that sports figures are overrated, because they get paid much more than policemen and firemen and other people with important jobs. Parochial school teachers are underrated, because they aren't paid enough for the tough job they perform.



### KATIE OYLER, junior

Bruce Springsteen is overrated, as there are other music stars of equal talent who don't get as much attention. Charity workers are definitely underrated, because they do so much important work that simply goes unnoticed.



## United Nations

Continued from facing page

Most of the delegates, however, were from Europe.

The third day was spent in sub-committees. Our goal was to combine and co-sponsor various resolutions, eventually coming up with one that would pass in the General Assembly. I have never before witnessed such heated debate, nor have I ever been subject to such intense bribery. This was the day that everything we had learned in our research had to be presented and supported. I was in luck, because the Soviet delegation was strong and agreed with my resolution. By the end of that day, I had co-sponsored three resolutions, had been called a "Soviet puppet" more times than I can count, and had made several allies from — literally and figuratively — all over the world.

The last two days were spent in the General Assembly, debating the strongest resolution from each sub-committee. Parliamentary procedure was strictly observed, and security guards kept order. These sessions did not run, however, without flaws.

At times, delegates staged mass walkouts

after disagreeing with a speaker. The lines to enter the assembly were always at least 50 people deep, and only 10 people were allowed to enter through each door every five minutes. Sometimes the delegates would also waste time by changing the subject, in order to delay another debate.

All this led me to ask, "How efficient is the real United Nations?" In our forum, we set a time limit of two hours per topic in the General Assembly, but in real life, it drags on indefinitely.

Our system worked because it accomplished a lot. Perhaps if we had been given more time, the outcome of our debates and votes would have been different. As it stands, however, our five-day conference came up with solutions to the question of the world debt crisis, the terrorism problem, the Iran/Iraq war, superpower nuclear proliferation and other issues of vital importance.

All things considered, every delegate who participated in the International Model United Nations got a flavor of the intense and frustrating nature of disputing highly controversial issues in the United Nations.

When our conference was finally over, our group went on to London for five more days of educational touring. We were able to visit such places as the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, the British Royal Museum, Trafalgar Square, Hyde Park,

## Speaking Out

By Jennifer Cooper  
Aquinas Institute

Many articles and essays and countless books have been written on the subject of teenage pregnancy. Most of the authors, however, are not teenagers at all, but adults, many of whom do not even have teenaged children of their own, let alone knowing any who have become pregnant.

Isn't it about time we listened to the people whom this topic immediately concerns — the teenagers themselves?

I am 18 years old, live in a respectable neighborhood and attend a quality high school. Not all teenagers who become pregnant are uncared for or uneducated; many of them are just like me. Often, these teens come from better financial and social environments than I do.

We cannot expect that such a thing will never happen to us, because this may be only an illusion. When it does happen, it is useless to pretend that the problem isn't there.

The basic thing that people try to ignore is how teenaged girls become pregnant in the first place. No amount of education can prevent it. Grounding, arguments and fighting certainly do not help, although this is the first reaction of most parents. Understanding and pa-

tience are far more valuable approaches in such situations.

Another problem with parents is that they try to make decisions and take control of the situation, in order to maintain the stance of the "concerned parent." This also does not accomplish very much, in a teenager's view.

If the teen has made the decision to commit the act that caused the pregnancy, she must be ready to make her own plans for the child and herself. In this, or any other stressful situation, a teenager is forced to take another look at life and what it means. She grows up quickly. Parents must understand this and allow her the freedom to take control in her own way. There will be questions that will need answering, as well as countless other ways in which the parent will be a real help to his or her child.

If the teenaged girl is lucky enough to have the father of her child still with her, and he is willing to accept the child as his own, she must consult him immediately. Depending on the situation, the conversation may be difficult, since the father will have many problems of his own. These include the financial situation, the emotional stress and, in many cases, the feelings and attitudes of his parents.

Teenage pregnancy is real for everyone involved. Both teens are fully responsible, and most understand what they have done. Parents must allow teens to decide for themselves the course of action to be taken.

Westminster Abbey, Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral and Piccadilly Circus. We were also lucky enough to get front-row tickets one night to "Cats," and saw "Les Miserables" on our last night in London.

After our five-day experience, we were ready to return to our beloved, capitalist country. The trip was not only a wonderful experience academically, but socially and personally as well. In participating in an international conference such as this, I was able to further my awareness of the ideas and cultures of the world around me, and share my own ideas with people from all over the world.

I remain awestricken by the idea that we were able to unite the world and sit down together to discuss the issues that concern all of us. From this example, we can see that there is obviously some hope for the United Nations as an institution, and also for the peaceful coexistence of its member nations.

I sincerely encourage any high school student interested in Model United Nations or International Relations to participate in this program, which is sponsored by the Board of Cooperative Educational Service and the Hague International Model United Nations. It is truly a worthwhile and unforgettable experience.

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