

MOAS Newsletter

Nº 2

29th Model OAS General Assembly for High Schools

Welcome Back Delegates!

Opening Ceremony Recap

MOAS has begun! Ms. Nelly Robinson's warm welcome led the opening ceremonies to an exciting start. After introducing this year's authorities, President Lulu Chang and Secretary General Katie Ray both made enthusiastic welcoming speeches. Ms. Robinson then proceeded to introduce the "piggybanks and backpacks" for Haiti, which will aide in the cleanup and rebuilding processes following the early 2010 earthquake. She explained that



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although this program prepares adolescents to change the world in the future, the small actions taken today allow the world to change.



Luis Consuerga, Secretariat for External Relations, spoke about the 100th anniversary of the House of Americas and pointed out that the room itself is built with "peace" in each of its four corners. The peace contained in

that room does not end as this program begins and will continue as a "reflection of the willingness of member states." He ended by stating that this 29th MOAS is a "great exercise" that builds power by the strength of the delegates' cooperation and unity. *(cont. on page 5)*

¿Donde esta Peru?

As you may or may not have noticed, but the delegation of Peru is missing. Why, you may ask? Peru, supposed to be represented by George C. Marshall High School in Virginia, is absent due to the flu! Now what does this teach us delegates? Get your flu shot! Motion to send best wishes to George C. Marshall High School? All in favor? Congratulations, your motion has passed.

Meet Your President and General Committee Chair, Lulu Chang

Following the great debates in General Committee during the morning session, I had the chance to interview President and General Committee Chair Lulu Chang. Her "take no prisoners" attitude, along with her ability to control each delegate, truly laid down the law for all discussions. A student from A&N Consolidated, Chang was elected to her high position in this year's Model OAS following a strong performance as the head delegate of Venezuela last year. As Chair of General Committee, she commands respect in the heat of battle, just like her favorite gladiator, Russell Crowe.



Day One, Morning Session

Your Committee Wrap-Up

General Committee: *Not for the Faint of Heart*

As the delegates entered the MOAS General Committee this morning, it was clear that important work was going to take place, and these political gladiators were set to battle. The first battle began as the Suriname delegation looked for celebration of cultural differences within the Americas, celebrated by festivals, featuring food and culture of minorities in member nations. Following intense debate led by nations such as Guatemala, Panama, Ecuador and Costa Rica, the resolution was passed, despite fierce disagreement over the question of funding. The wars continued as nations disputed Chile's resolution of a potential summit for the discrimination in the Americas as Ecuador became a huge contributor in the quarrel. *(cont. on page 4)*



First Committee:

First committee began with a key topic: corruption. As soon as the chairs finished their preliminary speeches and role call, the delegates of first committee were eager to start debate. One resolution, proposed by Uruguay, suggested a new law, which would create a database where all member states would offer information on the state of their democracy and their use of educational programs. This information would be used to implement new educational programs within the member states. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago proposed an amendment to use annual reports examining the effectiveness of the educational programs and thereby improving the programs. The amendment was passed by 22 to 4 with 2 abstentions. Another amendment was presented, recommending a request of financial support from the fourth committee of OAS to fund educational programs. This amendment was passed by 17 to 4 with 5 abstentions. Although the resolution was well written, many countries were unsure that it was specific enough and wished to see a re-written resolution. Therefore, the resolution failed by 9 to 17 with 1 abstention. All in all, this was a very productive first committee session.



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Second Committee:

The very first day of the committee started with much excitement for today and the days to follow. Chairman of the second committee, PJ Wong, entertained the delegations with comments

about apple pie crust, and stories about his best friend until there were enough chairs in



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the room. Shortly following the delay the first Resolution proposed by Brazil addressed confidence and security building in the Americas. In order to make safety a standard, not a luxury, the delegation wanted to create a database providing information about their military's progress and plans. The delegations of El Salvador, Haiti, and Columbia gave particularly strong speeches opposing this resolution. They believed that there was no benefit



in sharing secrets about the country's army because it would pose a threat to their national

security. Brazil responded to this by stating that they would make the site a secure network, which could only be accessed by certain people. There was also a mutual agreement between the countries that the database would be impractical and expensive. Brazil rebutted this by saying they had already planned on staying within the hemispheric security's budget. In their closing statement, Brazil asked that the delegations vote in favor of their resolution for the sake of security and confidence. There were 12 votes for the resolution, and 18 against. Therefore, Brazil's resolution was not passed.

Third Committee:

Third committee started off with a bang, debating many subjects in the area of natural disasters. Third committee is being led by Clara N., Devyn C, and Anjelica C. The first resolution concerned lending money to micro-finance businesses. The object was to get the younger generation to be more involved in the business world.

This resolution went under heavy debate and ultimately failed to pass.

The second

resolution was to promote economic collaboration between Caribbean Islands. Another of its goals was

to create partnerships where successful businesses lead new, or "younger" businesses, to be successful. After debate, this resolution passed. The third resolution aimed to limit pollution and tourism for fishing communities. Many points were brought up about how this resolution had previously been debated, and subsequently failed, in prior years. Delegations questioned the purpose of debating a topic that had failed prior to this MOAS. Contrary to past years, this

Cheesy Pick-Up Line of the Day:

Are you a resolution? 'Cause I would sign all over you.

Fourth Committee:

Fourth committee began with a great start, even though the room was crammed with delegates. The first resolution of the day was about safety. The resolution proposed to raise \$1 million to provide for fire and safety upgrades in OAS buildings. To pay for such upgrades the sponsoring delegation proposed to have a competition-style dance fundraiser, which would feature different national dances. This resolution had the potential to be culturally beneficial and to fix safety hazards, so naturally it was passed.

Two proposed resolutions in fourth committee involved the country of Haiti. One resolution's goal was to support stable conditions in Haiti by



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promoting democracy. By providing mobile identification units the country

could have a safe and fair election. With a vote of 14 for, 13 against, and 1 abstention, the resolution passed. The sixth resolution of the day also involved Haiti and their OAS building. The resolution's intention was to expand offices in the devastated country. Even though the OAS building itself survived the massive earthquake, the offices are too small and are not sufficient. The delegations supported expanding the Haitian OAS building with a vote of 17 for, 9 against, and 1 abstention.

Another resolution of the day involved a concert tour. The goal of that tour was to raise money that would help to maintain and repair OAS buildings throughout the world. The tour would feature voluntary musical artists from different states as well as children from poor families playing newly learned instruments. This resolution would be a sign of hope and after heavy debate it was passed with a vote of 17 for 12 against and 2 abstentions. Looking forward to a great debate tomorrow!

General: *(Cont.)*

The encounters continued to heat up as Mexico attempted to pass a resolution to eliminate discrimination in law enforcement, which was ultimately defeated due to the lack of support in homogenous nations such as Paraguay.

In the final discussion of the morning, the General Committee clashed over the resolution from Paraguay encouraging racial equality and integration. Potentially the most controversial of the resolutions this morning in General Committee, delegates questioned whether the funding for programs to increase integration in member nations would be possible with this ambiguous resolutions. This ambiguity was particularly identified by Nicaragua and awoke the United States, lead by Harrison Lynch, former committee chair. Lynch pointed out these



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flaws with a passionate speech stating that proper

causes to generate funding to implement these campaigns are not available in this resolution, and this will lead to inadequate opposition to racism, thus this resolution should not be past. Following the arguments, it became impossible for some delegates to make the decision solely on the resolution on a whole, leading to a request to vote on the resolution by parts. For those who don't what this means, it is a tedious process in which delegates are forced to vote on each resolve, rather than the resolution as a whole. This led to a very long morning session for the delegates, culminating in the passing of the resolution from Paraguay.

In the end, the delegates, despite a great deal of debate and intellectual battle, had a great deal of respect for each other and the ideas proposed during the morning session. The session was a success, as a great deal was done: three of four resolutions were passed. These gladiators worked diligently, persistently, and aggressively to create a better community of American nations and in the end, the only champions were the people.



Opening Ceremonies (cont.)

The next speaker, Milton Drucker, focused on the United States' core values of "citizens, security, democracy, prosperity," which are continually promoted at OAS conferences. Mr. Drucker also spoke about recent OAS successes regarding peace and security, such as the passive end of the Colombian and Ecuadorian conflict.

Before Opening Ceremonies were brought to a close, a mock resolution was brought to the table for debate. This resolution, which dealt with friendly soccer games between delegates to promote peace, was passed with a 27 to 7 vote.

Overall, the Opening Ceremonies were a great way to introduce new delegates to the procedures of debate, and start our conference with a bang!



Samantha Kennedy
Editor-in-Chief

Your Daily Horoscopes:

Aries- You have been making some serious eye contact with your chair, there is definitely some positive energy between you two. Like Bp, you can only go up from here. Go knock 'em out. Lucky Number: 2

Taurus- The power you possess in committee is unmatched. Use this strength in a productive manner, and rule the caucus and debate floor. Don't be afraid to tell your peers what's up! Lucky Number: 6

Gemini- Last night you were roaming the halls at forbidden hours, fortunately you brought your Marauders Map so you didn't get caught. Even though you're a tad bit tired, your brain is still at full power. Lucky Number: 7

Cancer- Don't let the name of your zodiac sign bring you down. You're off to a great start today so keep it up for the rest of the conference. Lucky Number: 3

Leo- Say what ever you want in committee because as Kid Cudi once said, "Cuz they gon' judge me anyway so whatever". Take this new attitude and have a successful day in committee. Lucky Number: 1

Virgo: Don't lie to yourself, the opening ceremonies were a time for you to forget. Now get excited for your committee and represent your school well. Lucky Number: 9

Libra: Just like Edward Cullen sparkles in the sun, so too will you sparkle and shine in committee. Keep up that great debating! Lucky number: 5

Scorpio: There are some international delegates sitting next to you. Don't be afraid to break the language barrier and strike up a conversation. Lucky Number: 5

Sagittarius: Your outfit is dashing this morning, use your looks to impress the chair and fellow delegates in committee. Lucky Number: 4

Capricorn- We see your resolution didn't make the book. Have fun in working group! But don't worry; you'll make plenty of friends. Lucky Number: 4

Aquarius- The double rainbow in your dream is actually true. Use this luck you found and take a risk. Lucky Number: 4

Pisces- We know that you can get nervous speaking in front of people and sometimes even stutter. Just relax, and you'll get that resolution passed! Lucky Number: Figure out the pattern once again and find a special surprise!