



## 29th Model OAS General Assembly for High Schools

**The Gala:***El baile de la ano*

It's the night we all look forward to. It's the night we all get dressed up for.

It's the reason some of us come to OAS in the first place. It's the Gala. The Gala is the night when all the delegates come together and meet on the dance floor. We are not separated by school, delegation, or committee, but united by one dance floor. With everyone arriving in their most dapper attire, groups took pictures in front of the fountain and on the steps. The party started when lights were dimmed and disco party lights came on. We all

enjoyed a variety of music which was chosen to adapt to all cultures present from US Top 40 to Juanes' La Camisa Negra. Toward the end of the night, students were treated with a salsa dancing lesson where Latin American culture shined. All in all, the 2010 Gala was truly a night to remember.

**How Parliamentary Procedure Stole Christmas:***Drama in General Committee*

Controversy and passionate discussion continued in the final session of the General Committee of the MOAS when a resolution from Third Committee was debated. Proposed by delegate of the United States Scott Axel, this resolution was to prevent possible damage natural disasters could inflict upon oil spills. Following an impressive display in Third Committee, being passed 22 votes for, 3 votes against, with 3 abstentions, this resolution found General Committee a great deal more critical.



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Despite authoring and proposing the resolution, Scott Axel, a delegate in Third Committee, was not allowed to speak in General Committee, and instead, was forced to rely on his fellow delegate from the General Committee to speak on his behalf. This, however, impeded the delegation's ability to truly explain the resolution, due to the separation of committees, and led to a much closer vote. (*cont. on page 2*)



# Committee Wrap Up:

## *Last Day of Sessions*

### General Committee Cont.

Finally, the Committee came to a vote after a great deal of conversation and clarification. Once again, the Third Committee delegation from the United States was hindered by a formality in the MOAS system. This time, however, the formality surrounded the issue of abstentions. Due to several points of clarification during the dialogue, the vote for this resolution was 12 delegates for, 11 delegates against, and 4 abstentions. This, though, was not enough, as a majority of 14 votes for was needed for the resolution to be passed.

The abstentions in the vote would have acted as the potential swing votes for this resolution to succeed, but instead they beg the question, “If not for parliamentary procedure, would this resolution have passed?”




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### First Committee:

First Committee started off bright and early, diving directly into debate. The first resolution of the day was presented by the delegation of Bahamas. This was a resolution that sought to raise literacy rates in order to better democracy within the Americas. This resolution passed, with 17 votes for, 5 votes against, and 2 abstentions. Next up was the joint resolution of Grenada and Panama. It proposed that each member state use surveys and anonymous evaluations, submitted by random government employees, in order to assess the state of their individual government. This was passed by a margin of 20 votes, with 1 abstention. The next resolution that was up for debate was authored by working group members of the delegations of Barbados, Chile, and Brazil. This resolution supported MESISIC in all member states and



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once again urged member states to use more modern systems to ensure transparency. This resolution passed 23 to 4 with 2 abstentions. The next resolution was submitted by Belize, which instructed the states to continue, or begin, civil society organizations in each member country investigating any forms of political corruption. The delegation of Bermuda took a strong stance against this resolution, while the other delegations partook in a heated debate with the delegation of the Bahamas. The long and intense debate ultimately proved successful, and the resolution finally passed 24 to 4 with 3 abstentions. The final resolution of the morning was a joint resolution presented by Argentina, Mexico, Paraguay, and the United States of America. This resolution urged all member states to branch off of MESISIC and create an ACA task force. After some debate with Trinidad and Tobago followed by a speech by the U.S. delegation, this passed 24 to 4 with 2 abstentions.

# Committee Wrap Up:

*Last Day of Sessions Cont.*

## Second Committee:

Yesterday in second committee, Chairman PJ Wong got the resolutions started right away. The first one, presented by Argentina addressed punishments for both drug users and dealers. They proposed that drug users go straight to a rehabilitation center, instead of the regular punishment, jail. The delegation of Guyana gave a powerful and enthusiastic speech supporting Argentina's resolution. After they set the bar, the points that other countries made against the resolution did not stand a chance. The resolution passed with 27 votes in favor, only 2 against, and 2 abstaining votes.

Costa Rica's resolution was relevant to the topic of maritime borders. Currently in Costa Rica, there is a law that once a marine vessel in pursue of drug traffickers comes to the border of another country, they must immediately cease pursuit. The patrols may contact the bordering country and alert them about the drug traffickers, but it most often takes too long for the other country to get out and catch the traffickers. Costa Rica believed that this created too big of a loophole for drug traffickers, and stopping it would greatly downsize the amount of narcotics transported by water. The issue was brought up that if this resolution were

passed, officials may abuse the ability to cross the borders. To control this, the delegation of Costa Rica suggested that a patrol vessel may only cross a maritime border if they are in direct pursuit of a drug transporting vessel. Over 10 delegations wrote amendments for this resolution, all of which were addressed. Both Haiti and Guatemala gave strong speeches supporting the resolution, and the final vote count was 17 for, 10 against, 2 abstaining.

The United States of America resolution sparked many creative analogies. The delegation's resolution stated that the states should spend less time combating marijuana because there are other more dangerous drugs. They compared the countries recognizing that there are other drugs to a bullfrog emerging from its icy hibernation and attack the problem head on. In El Salvador's supporting speech, they compared the drug trafficking issues to a creepy stalker who won't go away. In Guatemala's against speech, the delegation compared marijuana to silly bands, and other more dangerous drugs to Rolex



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## Third Committee:

During the morning session of day two, there was some interesting resolutions. The delegation of the United States presented a resolution which concerned oil spill prevention. The resolution had plans to save wildlife after a disaster and have enforced guidelines for drilling oil. Paraguay supported it because oil spills have the power to affect the entire globe. After much debate, the resolution was voted on, and with 22 in favor and 6 against, it passed. However, this resolution is being sent to General Committee for a re-evaluation. The Brazil delegates presented their resolution, which was on the promotion of economic growth through the idea of a Chile system in all countries. The Chile system means



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that the government supports new business for six months, which would help business help trade and employment for new businesses. With 21 votes in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention, this resolution passed. The third resolution was to set up a market place for cultural goods from all countries from OAS. The delegation of Haiti wondered how that would help foster communication between countries and delegations. The delegates of Costa Rica then replied that all countries would be allowed to contribute, thus promoting collaboration between countries. After much debate the voting results were 21 in favor and 9 against.

## Committee Wrap Up:

### *Last Day of Sessions Cont.*

Yesterday's meeting got off to a great start! No matter what the delegates are talking about, the spirit of democracy is carried over into everything they do, especially the sports talk. While waiting for the book the delegates got into a heated debate about their favorite sports teams, but they soon had to play a musical chairs of sorts since they had to rearrange their seats. After everyone was all settled, the committee still had some time to kill until another resolution arrived. To entertain themselves the committee read the horoscopes and had a good, genuine laugh. The entire committee had a nice break from debating before getting down to business.

The first resolution of the day was created by Costa Rica. The resolution proposed to streamline a program that archives the results of elections held in the member states. This program

would be a permanent database based in an off site location.

The goal of the proposal was to help create fair and just elections, while also supporting the right of free political thought. With lots of questions and valid counter arguments, this resolution was put under heavy debate. The delegates clearly polished their skills over night since members

were change fellow With a for, 12

3 abstentions the resolution passed.



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persuaded to sides by their delegates. vote of 15 against, and

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## Appreciating a City

Thursday morning, I had the chance, with two of my fellow MOAS members, to take a jog to start the day. It was cold to the point that we could see our breath as we ran, but it didn't matter. The conversation as we trotted was enjoyable, watching the sun slowly inch into the sky, enjoying the splendor of this amazing city. Starting at our hotel, we ran first to the Lincoln Memorial, pausing to appreciate the amazing testament to American history. We then continued our journey to the Washington Monument, and, once again, spent time enjoying the historical importance of not just the monument, but also the man it celebrates. In the end, it was more than just a run, it was an experience, a chance to enjoy this amazing capital

and see the impact of individuals on the course of history. That is what makes this MOAS so important. We are not doing this so our resolutions get passed, or so that we can be elected to high positions in the organization. It, however, has always been, and should always remain, a learning experience for all of us, so that someday we don't think about the time when our resolution passed, but we think about the passionate discussion that taught us how to be true world citizens, knowledgeable about the issues that we face together on this earth.



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# Horoscopes:

## *Final Edition*

**Aries:** Even though MOAS has come to an end, just remember: don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. Lucky number: 2

**Taurus:** You must have listened to our advice to stretch yesterday, because you sure tore up that dance floor! Hopefully you'll have even more moves next year. Lucky number: 1

**Gemini:** You need to tell everyone, "I ain't no hollaback gurl" cos you AIN'T no hollaback girl. Lucky number: 5

**Cancer:** As the great John Mayer once said, "Say what you need to say" all the time, especially to the beautiful looking boy or girl sitting next to you. Lucky number: 7

**Leo:** Even though the hard worked and well thought resolution didn't pass, you must keep your head up and look at the positives. There is always next year, and if you're a senior, hopefully you met someone to remember ;) Lucky number: 0

**Virgo:** Keep your head up, Johnny Appleseed. People may judge you, but because of your care-free attitude you should just keep planting trees and wearing a pot on your head. But remember, keep your distance from those seductive plum trees, and keep your eye on that apple. Lucky number: 4

**Libra:** Even though 95% of what you say is a joke, the other 5% of you definitely came out during committee meetings. You were awesome at debating this year, and therefore. Lucky number: 3

**Scorpio:** We know that you missed the first few nights of Chanukah to come here, and we would just like to applaud your dedication to your country. Thank you, delegate. Thank you. Lucky number: 1

**Sagittarius:** "Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called sons of [democracy]" Live it, love it, breathe it. Lucky number: 5

**Capricorn:** Este es para los estudiantes quien hablan espanol. Anoche en el baile tus movimientos fueron muy fantastico y somos son muy impresionado. Gracias por visitar los estados unidos y quieremos ver ti en los anos viene. Lucky number: 0

**Aquarius:** Although the MOAS conference is nearly over, don't let that rain on your parade. Continue to talk to the person next to you and build this relationship for facebook friend status. Lucky number: 0

**Pisces:** We saw you with Prince Eric, Little Mermaid. Just keep swimming and use your ambition to get where you need to be. Lucky number: Same pattern, everyone. Saaaaaaaaaaame pattern.

