Who was behind President Trump’s success in the 2016 election? How is social media changing the nature of democratic elections? Director Thomas Huchon’s documentary
TRUMPING DEMOCRACY:
Documented or Deceived?

which played at the World Forum theater last night, answered precisely these challenging questions. Here is a recap of the film night.

The atmosphere was lively at the entrance. Jilian Stein, delegate of China in Special Conference sub-commission 1, said that even though she did not know about the specifics of the movie’s content, she was still curious to discover what insights the film would shed on democracy.

“I’m excited to see what the movie is about. The idea of democracy makes it totally fascinating, so I’m extremely excited.”

Some delegates, such as Philippe Demptos, delegate of Madagascar in General Assembly 3 (GA3), expressed their excitement for the movie’s message.

Likewise, Esther Ji, delegate of Cambodia from Special Commission 2 (GA2), seemed to be the first time hearing of information about the movie. For some, this seemed to be the first time they heard it about social media’s involvement in the Trump election. Stein said.

“I’m excited, I mean, I’m expecting it to be a negative involvement or maybe fake news and something to do with that, but I’m still really excited.”

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The theater was at times filled with laughter, which stemmed from the surreality of the current situation in the US than to comedic aspects of the film. For some, this seemed to be the first time they heard of information in the film, while others were already well-versed in the content. A general sense of disbelief seemed to be shared— if for different reasons— though it was evident that many had been jaded by the Trump campaign and presidency.

In an interview with the press team during the viewing, Mr. Huchon explained his hopes for how delegates would receive his film. “I think that there’s always an expectation, but most of the time it’s your ego driving this expectation, and it’s not the point,” Mr. Huchon said. “My ego is that I wish the room feels fulfilled and that 25 [people] ask questions. The reality is that even if there is no question, but the person in the room understood something about the time we’re living in. I won the award as some kind of a seed that has to enter the brain of the youth and create better citizens in the future [...]. If we go to the long run, I hope that in 20 years, there is someone in this room that is doing what I’m doing now.” Connecting his expectations to the purpose of MUN and fostering informed young people keen to create positive change, Mr. Huchon said, “I think that any kind of potential explanation of the world we’re living in connects with an organization that tries to help students become better citizens and become more involved in the society they’re living in, whatever society that might be.” Mr. Huchon also asked the press team to credit his animation creator Marguerite Teulet and his editor Jerome Prouvost. He explained that while they are rarely recognized for their work, they were instrumental in creating TRUMPING DEMOCRACY.

After the viewing, some delegates were skeptical of the movie. Victor Hoppe, delegate of China in GA3 noted, “While I already had a general knowledge of the topic before watching the movie, I thought the movie was very revealing about how the media manipulate voters without them knowing. However, I thought that for a documentary it was less factual and more sensational. Also, it put most of the blame for the failed system onto the corporations and less on the American political system.”

After watching a documentary or any movie for that matter, it is vital to digest and evaluate critically even if you enjoyed the movie or agreed with its ideas. Considering this director’s past movie CONSPI Hunter, in which he intentionally presented conspiracy theories as truth and only revealed later that they were untrue, to what extent should one believe what he says in this movie? Is there information that stands out to you? Will you fact check it? While watching a movie of this nature can expand your mind, the true learning experience comes when you dare to ask difficult questions, both to others and to yourself. Has an event been documented, or have you been deceived?

By Ray Chen and Amalia Anhalt
Layout by Jaywon Yi
BLAST FROM THE PAST

What It Was Like to Be a Delegate in 1980

In our halls walks an MUN Director, Marjet Hofman, who was a three-time delegate 39 years ago. When asked about the changes to the conference since her time, she reflected on how research has changed. Students used to be assigned to a country and possibly not know where it was. Instead of searching on Google, they needed to use their networking skills to find contacts who had information. One year, her country was Papua New Guinea, and her dad who is Indonesian knew someone who had just come back from visiting there. Four weeks after sending him telegrams, he posted back letters (just in time for the conference) and gave her contacts in Australia who also knew about Papua New Guinea. In this way, the research process was more involved and, at times, as international as the conference. Hofman remembers the freedom and excitement she felt about the conference, which were completely unrelated to MUN. She did not know how to get in touch with the people who could give her access to the resolutions. Overall, the entire process of gathering information took her about a month. The whole process of intensive writing took her an additional four months.

An interview with Ryan Villanueva, the co-founder of the Best Delegate organization, revealed a promising future of Michalis’ book, “This was of particular relevance to our training today, where we trained 30 directors in Education for Justice (E4J) and how to promote peace and justice in the world and United Nations. The whole objective of the E4J is to inspire students to take action. Bill’s on his way on taking action.”

By Sunny Choi
Tips for Keeping Healthy

"Your health is your life."

As we all know, leading a healthy life is crucial for everyone, especially when you travel away from home and attend a big conference like THIMUN. Here are some pieces of advice given by delegates and MUN Directors.

- Eat Healthy
Food is a crucial part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Delegates, chairs, and MUN Directors go to the cafeteria to get lunch everyday. While some people think the food is not tasty, other delegates like it because it is healthy. "I think it is ok, at least it is much better than having French fries. I enjoyed the salad yesterday, as well as the one on the first day," said MUN Director Suzanne Hoot. "I have been here for 18 years, and the food has improved a lot. It is so healthy." Several delegates, such as Alejandro Ruiz Rodriguez, delegate of Cape Verde, suggested that "Though cold food is not unhealthy, all delegates should eat warmer food..."

- More warm food should be provided for lunch, like soup.

- Dress Warm
Because of the intensely cold weather in The Hague, it is essential for THIMUN participants to dress as warmly as possible. "I come from China, and I did not realize how warm it is in our city [in comparison to The Hague]," said Zixin Ma, delegate of Sudan in Environment Commission sub-committee 1. For those who have gotten sick already, it is important to put on more clothes and drink more water.

- Sleep More
Although there are many things to do in the city at night, conference participants should avoid staying up for too long. "Many other delegates and I believe sleeping early is just so important," said Isabelle Barclay, ambassador of United Arab Emirates in General Assembly 1. "Nightlife in The Hague is fine, but it is not that healthy. Everyone needs to make sure that they can be energetic for the next day." In addition, Ma said, "Also, please do not stay up late to edit resolutions. Just enjoy [the conference]." It seems like MUN Directors tend to give a fair amount of freedom to delegates as long as they do not jeopardize the opportunity. "Kids are allowed to have fun at night this week, and our curfew is eleven o’clock, which is cool for most of them," said Hoot.

All in all, it is imperative for THIMUN participants to come, improve, meet new people, and enjoy their time, but in a healthy way.

By Yijia Hu

Dressing Up For the Occasion

Dressing up at THIMUN is indisputably a challenge. The formal requirements, The Hague’s severe cold, and the constant debate each demands different attire. Here at Europe 1 and 2, the Munity team's got you covered (Pun intended).

Arnas Tavakaly, delegate of Senegal from the Historical Security Council who was found wearing both a neck and a bow tie, explains, "I’m wearing two ties because I carried extra and I wanted to wear both during the conference." He stresses on nonconformity towards accepted "fashion rules." However, he says, "Comfort is always paramount so don’t wear anything ridiculous. I’d say that since a MUN conference is one of the only places you can wear certain types of clothes so maximize that.

For all those shying away from dressing up to express out of a fear of being judged, Berit Puschner, deputy chair of the General Assembly 1 emphasizes. "I go to a public school so I’m not used to dressing up like this. It feels strange. But I also think it’s a great opportunity because it makes you feel like you’re someone else. Don’t worry too much because amongst 3500 people, every one’s dressed up and no one will judge you," she assures.

Guys who yearn to dress up interestingly but feel too restricted by the dress code, you are not alone. Ivan Kryklov, delegate of the Central African Republic of the Special Conference sub-committee 2 expresses, "Guys can only wear suits, I have a different shirt every day and that’s my only variety. Don’t pick a suit just because you want to get out of the store. Since you’re going to wear it for the entire conference, don’t settle for less."

THIMUN days can be long and tiring. Admin member Eini Gardner thinks, "shoes are the hardest part because you want them to match your outfit and look good but also be comfortable. Especially if you’re an admin and you’re walking back and forth. Buy expensive shoes that will be comfy. I think it’s better to buy ones that will not give you blisters."

And finally, Ishika Srivastava, advocate of Guyana in the International Court of Justice, who finds the cold unbearable, recommends to, "Layer it up. Everything I’m wearing has two layers beneath it. Carry a change of clothes to change at the conference. Also, shoes are important. Carry two pairs of shoes - one to walk in and one to wear at the conference."

While dressing up is not the primary purpose of a MUN conference, clothes can help make a statement. So bearing comfort, weather, and dress code in mind, don’t be reluctant to express yourself.

By Hitanshi Badani

By Yijia Hu

Artwork by Camille Lorenzo

Photo by Vouchchan Hour

By Yijia Hu

Layout by Christine Lee
While the Best Cartoon Award will be given out by a professional jury, THIMUN participants have the power to award the People’s Choice Award. On Thursday morning, all entries will be shown by the chairs of each committee and participants will vote for their favorite cartoon. The entries are featured below.
OF BASIC INCOME

By line Bodoni 72 Book (12)
Copy Bodoni 72 Book (12)
Title Avenir Next Regular (12)

OF BASIC INCOME

THE EXTINCTION OF LANGUAGES:
LOSS OF WORDS OR WISDOM?

Of 7000 languages existing at the moment, it is estimated by linguists that 3000 will die within the next century. How did these languages become endangered? It seems that with the emergence of English as a global language, the need to expose ourselves to a variety of languages began to disappear. After all, do we really need all those other languages? Maybe speaking English is enough to be able to communicate with each other, especially since one fourth of the world’s population is already able to speak it. Why then, when General Assembly 3 (GA3) debated the issue of safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of different communities in a globalized world, did they include language preservation in their resolution?

Sholpon Sann, delegate of Kazakhstan, said that when “we lose the language, we lose a chance to see the world in a certain way.” But what is this certain way? Akramkhanova thinks that each language has its set of words that are associated only with its specific culture and traditions. Additionally, Noor Elghaffal, delegate of Tunisia, believes that “though some may argue that culture can continue despite the loss of the language, the translated version can never truly embody the essence of the true tradition.” Hence, suggesting that language is necessary not only for communication but also for sharing the unspoken: the feelings, the shared history, and a part of the soul. Sann, delegate of Kazakhstan, is convinced that her mother tongue is a part of her identity and is what makes her unique in this globalized world. As she puts it, “Although it is essential to have a common language for ease of communication, language diversity symbolizes how differences just make our world stronger.” Therefore, as Aldous Huxley suggested long ago, uniformity would only lead to a dystopian world. Diversity in languages, on the other hand, promotes unity and understanding. Languages can be compared to visiting a museum. Speaking one language means seeing only one painting and only one artist’s view of the world. Exposing oneself to a variety of languages means seeing more colors and unique views.

How do we help to revive languages? As Isabel Ross, delegate of Zimbabwe, pointed out, “In order to preserve cultural heritage, the new generation must feel pride and interest in their heritage. It should not be forced upon them and older generations should set an example.” This is hard but possible as demonstrated by the revitalization of the Gaelic language in Ireland. The year of 2019 has been proclaimed to be the year of endangered languages by the United Nations. So it seems like the right time to learn a foreign language and contribute to the maintenance of diversity.

The Basics of Basic Income

For those delegates who may not have understood the speech which Guy Standing, a Professor of Economics at the University of London, gave at the opening ceremony, here is a breakdown of what his theory is, the impacts its implementation might have and two delegates’ opinions on the matter.

The Theory of Basic Income promotes a certain amount of cash being paid unconditionally to every member of society without any requirements. This basic income is not a one-off payment, but is periodic and always in cash so that the individual can decide what to spend it on. Standing’s perspective is that it will “revitalize life and democracy in our societies.”

The Theory of Basic Income promotes a certain amount of cash being paid unconditionally to every member of society without any requirements. This basic income is not a one-off payment, but is periodic and always in cash so that the individual can decide what to spend it on. Standing’s perspective is that it will “revitalize life and democracy in our societies.”

There are many arguments for and against this theory due to its potential impact on the economy and the overall well-being of society. For example, there is a global need for the rebalancing in income distribution which the Theory of Basic Income addresses through the provision of an income regardless of employment status. In doing so, all members of society will benefit from the development of countries, economic growth, and increase in productivity due to technological progress. Rather than simply taxing the rich, as politicians in countries like the United States are proposing, basic income prevents the income gap from widening as everyone will receive the same amount of money. This will further lead to an elimination of material poverty if enacted globally, potentially leading to the successful completion of the Sustainable Development Goals of No Poverty and Reduced Inequalities.

Ilse Bot, delegate of Niger of Human Rights Sub-Commission 1, stated that “if every family would receive a fixed amount of money each month, it will allow the families to bring themselves out of poverty.” She believes this will, “pull the economy upwards little by little, [and] the families will eventually be able to sustain themselves without the money of the government.” She lastly states that this will make it “easier for families in the LEDCs to develop because the first step is always the hardest.”

In addition to the egalitarian impacts, the Theory of Basic Income has also been cited as potentially increasing the flexibility of the labor market. Jonathan Owen, delegate of Peru of the Human Rights Sub-Commission 2 stated that his “belief is that with current technological trends, the Basic Income Theory is not only plausible but also the only possible course of action with nearly every job under threat of automation.” In order to remedy this issue of rising structural unemployment, he believes that despite its negative effects, it is “the only solution” to prevent the dissipation of 800 million jobs which will be lost by 2030 due to robot automation, according to the BBC. This will hopefully work towards the Sustainable Development Goals of Decent Work and Economic Growth.

The Basic Income Theory’s impacts are relevant to many of the topics discussed at THIMUN today, especially those relating to human rights and sustainability. The hope is that moving forward, such theories can be evaluated, taking the consequences of their implementation into account, in the hopes of addressing poverty and changes in the structure of the labor market.

By Fatima Djilalova

THE EXTINCTION OF LANGUAGES:
LOSS OF WORDS OR WISDOM?

By Aimee Dustin

THE BASICS
OF BASIC INCOME

By line Bodoni 72 Book (12)
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THE EXTINCTION OF LANGUAGES:
LOSS OF WORDS OR WISDOM?
The focus of all judges and advocates are centered on the advocate of Qatar. After having concluded the case of Gayana v. Venezuela with the fall of the gavel, the controversy of the economic blockade between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has now become subject to the THIMUN 51 International Court of Justice (ICJ).

In June 2018, Qatar filed a case against the UAE, with the accusation of having violated the rights of Qatari citizens. Due to the economic blockade, the airspace and seaports of the UAE were closed, and Qatari citizens were expelled. Advocate of Qatar, Mey Dalya Ocali, said, “It is no question that...Qatari citizens and Qatari nationals residing in other countries have suffered the consequences.” The case further emphasized the claim that the UAE was violating the rules of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), an international convention to restrict racial discrimination across the globe. Both nations being signatories to CERD, the UAE was called to comply with the requirements of CERD, thus restoring the rights of the Qatari citizens.

The controversy from the case according to THIMUN Judge Nelson Matthew Tan rose primarily from the results of the blockade itself and to what extent the decisions of the UAE were rightful: “The most prevalent sources are the accusations of violating the [Qataris’] human rights and [...] accusing Qatar of terrorism.” To respond to the case, the UAE filed a court case against Qatar, claiming that their airspace was violated and that Qatar established an “environment of hate.” The UN ICJ in The Hague ruled that the economic blockade violated the rights of Qatari citizens and ordered the UAE to protect these rights in the future.

As an additional cause fueling the controversy, the bias of the media was brought to attention by THIMUN judge Isabel Tschermimak. She described how “a news program called Al Jazeera” is spreading radical ideas. “A lot of the countries surrounding Qatar, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE who are the respondents in this case, put up sanctions that meant that Qatar felt that some of their citizens wererationally discriminated against. Based on international law, this is not allowed,” said Tschermimak.

Saeed Alnowais, UAE’s Ambassador to the Netherlands, stated that “Qatar has failed to provide any evidence of mass expulsions or deportations or any specific actions” that prevent Qatarians from enjoying their civil, property or business rights. “The Qatari government is facing many allegations and continuing to deny all these allegations,” said Zeynep Veryeri, advocate of Qatar.

The Qatar v. UAE case is now full of suspense. While Qatar won the case at the International Peace Palace in July 2018, what will happen here at THIMUN?

By Cecily von Salmuth
**Correction:**
We would like to apologize for our mistake in Wednesday’s issue. The Chair of SPC 1 from the “Become the Leader of a Different Leadership Style” article is Gabrielle Hodes.

The Thursday Issue of MUNITY emulates the Thai daily newspaper Bangkok Post. Toting the slogan “The Newspaper you can trust,” The Bangkok Post is Thailand’s second oldest newspaper. The publication was initially established in 1946 as an independent newspaper designed to counter then-present Soviet influences. Entirely comprised of Thai nationals, the Bangkok Post is celebrating its 73rd publication anniversary in 2019. The newspaper currently has a nationwide circulation of 110,000, 80 percent of which reaches the city of Bangkok.