



## Do Delegates Practice What They Preach?

by Emma Nathenson & Fatima Djalalova

“...so what are you doing? You're actually causing waste,”

Over 3,000 motivated and intelligent young adults gather every year at THIMUN to solve some of today's most daunting world issues. But are they really practicing what they preach?

While delegates develop sound policies and resolutions in hopes of achieving the universal dream of a sustainable and peaceful world, their intentions do not always extend outside of the committee.

Students who typically spend all day discussing diplomacy and acting professionally (excluding certain GA1 delegates mixing up Bee Movie scripts with resolutions) may neglect sustainable practices outside the committee room. Naturally, conference participants are not expected to uphold the same conduct they do in committee all the time, but the

disparity in behavior can be jarring. In the Sustainable Development Committee, for example, certain delegates opted for a food-delivery service instead of the World Forum's provided lunch. This is problematic because the cheap plastic packaging is not reusable and increases the carbon footprint.

Even conference members that stay in the Forum for their lunch break may not be taking the most sustainable route. Pamela, an employee who works the lunch shift, expressed her concerns “the worst is the fact that they've been here since Monday. And we've been telling them that it's only one candy bar and two sandwiches per person, but they'll still go in and grab way more than they can actually eat, so what are you doing? You're actually causing waste,” she emphasized. Pamela went on to raise a significant concern and exposed the irony in striving for an ideal world in committee and perpetuating problems outside of it. “I don't really know if that's the thing to do, because this world is not looking very good right now, so I don't know why you would want to cause more waste, especially if you're not eating the food and just leaving full bags behind.”

Pamela's coworker, Tanji Harmony, shared her own experience with THIMUN-goers defying the lunch-food

limits. “I told one [that] they can only take one, and he was like, ‘Sorry! But, I already touched it,’” she retold. “Some kids didn't get wraps today, and they were stuck with beets and salmon. But if they did listen everyone would have gotten one.”

Dex Op den Camp (Delegate of Guatemala, Special Conference Sub-Commission 1) said that “If you make the amendments and write resolutions about doing the right things in the world, then you should also go home and make sure you're following the same steps.” When asked about how he himself plans to incorporate the aspects of resolutions into his own life, Op den Camp replied that “in the Special Commission Sub-Commission 1, there is a lot of discussion about free press, democracy and women's rights, and it is really important that when I go out with my friends and family, I ensure that I am treating the people around me equally and fairly.”

While there are some discrepancies between the resolutions and the behavior of the delegates, the employees of THIMUN largely share a positive impression of the delegates and believe that majority of the delegates are considerate about their behavior. The security guard, Eric Rygersberg stated “I have

been to other conferences, and there is a lot of garbage. But here it is clean, so I think the delegates do what they preach.” Rygersberg added that “Most of [the delegates] are polite. Sometimes, when they are asked for badges, they get a little bit annoyed. But 90% are friendly.”

Anja Somer and Carola Schwab, who work at the Information Desk, also shared that “the people here are so friendly. [We] believe that the younger generation can change the world. [We] come here every year and some of the delegates come back and they are so welcoming – we are the hosts and it is so nice to have guests.”

As we go forward, it is vital to remember that our fantasies about the world's future expressed in the resolutions are capable of becoming feasible goals if we start to implement them in our lives. All grand changes start with small steps, so let's be the ones who take this hardest first step.

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# Impeachment Fever: Not Just in Washington

by Christina Brusco & Yunrong Chen

THIMUN 2020 began in a formal and peaceful atmosphere five days ago. Young, aspirational delegates walked into the World Forum with ambitions to fight for democracy and make an impact on the world. However, as time passed by, the delegates in each committee seem to have changed their mind in a more chaotic direction. Rumors have been spreading across the conference that delegates have been planning to “overthrow” or “impeach” their Chairs. These groups are formed among delegates who find their Chairs biased, or feel like they are being treated unfairly or ignored. Frustrated by their Chairs’ decisions, many delegates stood up for their rights in protest.

Such a situation was experienced in General Assembly 2 (GA2). Delegates had been raising placards while asking for “votes of no confidence” and “motions to impeach the Chairs.” One of the anonymous delegates from the Sustainable Development Commission Sub-commission 1 was disappointed in the chaos emerging. “A speaker came up and said ‘we all should die because of rising sea levels. If the climate is evolving, so should we.’ No one is taking our committee seriously anymore.” Comments like these raise serious concerns as the delegates are not taking global issues and their committees seriously.

Impeachment was also discussed in the Economic and Social Council. When asked about the situation, an anonymous delegate responded: “In my room, there is a pending resolution being drafted about potentially impeaching the Chair. In my opinion, it seems more like a joke. But if people have the energy to write it, it means that there is a degree of effort being put into it.” The delegate connected this idea to the fact that many people are not used to the five-day length of the conference. They become tired and frustrated, which may lead to jokes and an uncontrollable environment. On

the topic of minimizing chaos, the delegate believed that Chairs should not call on the people if they know that they will act in an

inappropriate manner, “but it’s also important to remember that Chairs are also high school students and they may do what they find funny.”

Talks of impeachment appeared to have fueled chaos in general in other committees. An anonymous Chair from one of the GAs said that she “feels pity for the delegates who spent a lot of time preparing for this moment. They became incapable of thriving, learning and developing their skills because all the other delegates just want to mess around.” She believed that the size of the conference might be the primary cause of the chaos: “The huge quantity of people in each committee incentivizes some delegates to goof around because you can literally make 200 people to pay attention to you.” Nevertheless, she said that when facing this problem, instead of shouting at the delegates, her secret strategy is to wait for a little bit. “One way you can [stop the chaos] is to let the chaos pass, wait for it to die down a bit, and then tell the delegates to calm down. Because the chaos is a mood, and the mood just needs time to die down,” she said. Recognizing the fact that chaos might be very difficult to prevent under the context of THIMUN, she stated that, “to some extent, goofy delegates are inevitable in every conference. I think, of course, [the THIMUN Board] is already doing this, but the delegates that make inappropriate comments have to be reported to their school directors and someone has to tell them that it is not OK.”

Alain Meidinger, the Chair of the THIMUN Board, denied the ‘impeachment’ conspiracy, “At the UN, you can’t impeach the Chair... It’s never happened before, it’s not in the ruling procedures of THIMUN.” Facing this challenging task, Mr. Meidinger said, “All we can do is to clarify the situation, which we are doing in the moment [...] to me, the idea of impeaching another student put us in a sort of awkward position.” Mr. Meidinger further suggested that if a Chair seemed to be biased, “you can let the delegate to have a conver-

sation with the Chairs. When you have a break, talk to the Chair and tell them [you] are having some difficulties.”

As THIMUN is a five-day conference - longer than most of the regional conferences - the delegates’ brainpower might be drained a bit earlier. However, in rela-

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tion to THIMUN’s goal, delegates’ personal tiredness and boredom are not an excuse to disrupt on-going sessions and debates. Especially when well-prepared delegates with a real passion for MUN and international relations are willing to cooperate while striving to solve global challenges. Just as the mission of the THIMUN

Foundation stated, THIMUN “attempts to fulfill the aims and goals set by the founders of the United Nations in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations: to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors.” Delegates should always keep in mind what they are here for, and feel the responsibility of becoming future leaders falls on their shoulders.

but it’s also important to remember that Chairs are also high school students and they may do what they find funny.

MOTION TO IMPEACH THE CHAIRS

# Interview with Jamala Osman

by Ella Westland

At the age of 21, Jamala Osman was one of the youngest bank managers in England. Now she is a social entrepreneur sharing her story with young people all over the world. This is a future that would have been nearly impossible to predict when she was a 14-year-old growing up in Ilford, East London, struggling with the death of her mother and kicked out of the house by her father.

Q: Do you feel that growing up in East London, being exposed to gang culture and violence, contributed to your mindset?

A: One hundred percent, but in a positive way. When you're growing up in certain situations you grow up a lot quicker. Therefore, you see a lot of things that you shouldn't necessarily see at a certain age and that kind of helps with your maturity. So, when I was a bank manager at 21 unless I told people my age they wouldn't necessarily question it because of the way I carried myself and the way I spoke but that's because I grew up on the streets, around a lot of older people, a lot of older boys and stuff like that. It [...] helped [me understand] that that's not the life that I want to live and that it's a cycle and it's a trap. In East London, we call the 'business' headquarters the 'traphouse'. I'm not endorsing that but it's very ironic that it's called a trap. There's no way out. Understanding that even off the road you can find yourself in a trap as well and just having that mentality that I don't want to be trapped helped me a lot.

Q: How did it feel to get an apprenticeship with Barclays?

A: It felt weird [...] because you grow up hearing stories of people trying to rob banks [...] and getting in trouble, trying to bump the system and stuff like that. You never hear about somebody getting a job there [...]. Even when I was a bank manager I felt like I had imposter syndrome even to the point when, at first, I didn't even want people to know I worked for the bank [...] I'd go to work in my uniform, get changed at work and come home in a tracksuit. [...] I didn't want people to see me in my uniform, ask questions because I didn't want to get into trouble, I [didn't] want to risk my job, I just wanted to protect it.



Photos by Tamar Kreitman



[After a while] I was comfortable going to work, leaving work and coming home and being who I am. I saw the positive in that. It was a long interesting journey, very very scary, but it's a process and I'm grateful for it. It helped me understand myself [...]

When young people get shocked about me being a bank manager when I was 21 [...], I [didn't] feel pride, I felt a sense of shame because I'm the only person. [...] There should be more of us. The more I'm going around and people are being shocked, that means society's set up in a way that it shouldn't be set up. I have the experience to change that and I want to change that.

Q: What would your advice to young people struggling to make progress be?

A: Life is about finding a purpose and finding meaning. You're on that journey and once you find your purpose your life doesn't finish. You have to work towards creating something or doing something with that purpose. [...] If I have a goal, I like to ask myself why do I have that goal, then I like to ask myself why, why, why. Then you start to build layers and start to get to the core of the reason why you're doing what you're doing. Essentially that's your purpose. Life is just one big question...why?

Q: You often incorporate spoken word into your speeches, do you think this helps you to connect with your audience?

A: Music's such a universal language [for] connecting with people. It's more self-ish for me, a lot of the stuff that I don't address in my talk I do in spoken word, purely because I haven't dealt with certain issues or certain scenarios in my life to talk about so openly. I can mask that in poetry and art to get across the same emotions and get across the story but just not going into detail because I'm just not ready yet. [...] You need to have an area in life that gives you confidence that for me was writing and music. [Music] gave me [the] confidence to [step] outside of my comfort zone. When you do things in life that push you outside of your comfort zone, you thrive in them.



# Disrespectful Discourse: The Loss of Professionalism in Politics

by Amalia Anhalt

A recent trend in Western politics and culture seems to be straying further and further from civil, acceptable discourse.

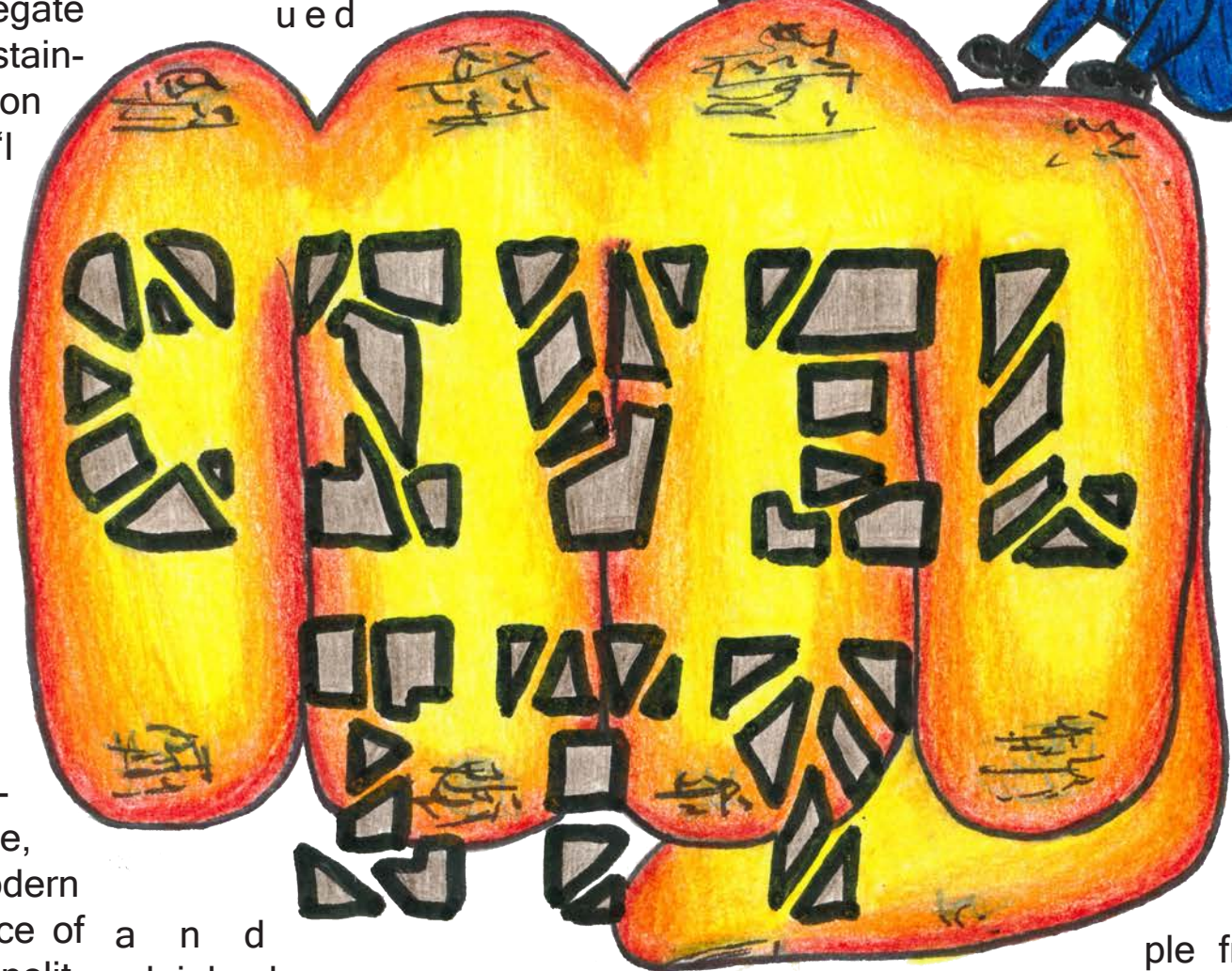
A vast majority of interviewees noticed a distinct lack of respect in discourse, especially when related to politics. Matthew Bender (Delegate of the Dominican Republic, Sustainable Development Commission Sub-Commission 2) stated, “I believe that politics have become a lot more polarized and therefore people typically have less respect for people who are far on the other end of the political spectrum.”

Similarly, Dimitrios Kraniotis (Delegate of the Philippines, Special Conference Sub-Commission 1) lamented the loss of civil conduct in politics. “All these rules that were in place that had been normalized over decades of political rhetoric, of political debate, discussion, torn asunder by modern politicians, and every semblance of mutual respect and [...] proper political conduct [have been] thrown out the window. Nowadays,” Kraniotis argued, “politics is really a dog-eat-dog world with no respect and where people simply do not value things that were previously considered pivotal to the proper conduct of politics.” Indeed, as a new world order characterized by the Internet comes upon us, norms of formality and respect seem to erode. Bella Winger (Delegate of Pakistan, SDC2) highlighted that social media “is this strange platform especially for politicians to be communicating over, I think that immediately makes things much less professional and makes it much easier to be less diplomatic.” Likewise, Tommaso Alocci (Delegate of Cameroon, SPC2) listed social media as a factor that has represented “extra means for people to become uncivilized throughout political discourse.”

When asked how we can make



politics more civil again, the merits of THIMUN, a place where many of the formalities of politics are still valued



and abide by, were brought up. Karim Shabaan (Delegate of Tonga, SPC1) commented, “I think the reason for it is because at THIMUN there [are] more diplomatic procedures whereas in world politics a leader could just say whatever they want, for example a certain U.S. president with Twitter. [...] Strict rules and procedures are the only feasible option to prevent politicians from saying whatever they want. Furthermore,” Shabaan continues, “I think if there would be someone like a chair in a political debate who has the right to kick a politician out then more civilized speeches will follow suit.”

Similarly, Mert Gurer (Delegate of Iraq, General Assembly 2), after having painted a dire picture of intense polarities and a lack of communication between different nations, lit up when asked about THIMUN. “THIMUN is great. THIMUN is the only place where I have seen peo-

ple from different nationalities talk to each other [...] I think the English language and just MUN conferences overall connect us all, and I think that is a great thing.”

Overall, delegates advocated in favor of the strict procedures that they feel keep politics organized and civil. As norms continue to change, it is important that formal, measured discussions become a constant. We cannot afford to reduce politics to a screaming ground and to destroy procedures designed to protect the integrity of our policies, institutions and citizens. Ultimately, it will prove advantageous to take some of the procedural knowledge of MUN to mediate and engage in productive and respectful discourse.

Artwork by Martina Rodriguez  
Layout by Melody Tai



# THIMUN Divided?

by Suakshi Soni

In a world plagued by gender inequality, can THIMUN, a conference cultivating the world's next global leaders, work to establish an environment void of these problems? Is THIMUN immune to these gender-biased problems, or is inequality a prevalent problem here too?

Some delegates believe that there is no distinction in how girls and boys act in committees. Vikram Sivashakar (Delegate of the Kurdish Regional Government, Advisory Panel on the Question of the Kurdish Region), echoing the opinions of many delegates, said: "There is no real difference in how girls and boys act in committee, considering THIMUN has a high level of debate and both genders are very collaborative."

Some delegates disagreed with Sivashakar. Insha Lakani (Judge, International Court of Justice) noticed that girls in her committee tend to be more vocal than the boys. She stated: "My committee is predominantly female, almost [all] advocates and judges are female. As a result, the girls are really vocal, and there is a lot of women power."

On the other hand, according to Druva Sankhe (Delegate of Turkey, Advisory Panel on the Question of the Kurdish Region), "the boys are more vocal in my committee and I think it might be due to prevailing social constructs that might be

harder for females to establish themselves in committee."

Similarly, Riya Gandhi (Delegate of Chad, Special Conference 1) believes that to some extent, girls can find it difficult to prove themselves. She added, "THIMUN is an open environment where everyone takes precedence; however, in terms of how a person is perceived – not necessarily at THIMUN – women have to work harder to be taken seriously in, say, everything from lobbying to resolutions. A girl with the same charisma as a boy in my experience would have to put in more effort to prove herself as compared to a guy who can establish authority much easier."

In the end though, THIMUN delegates have made an attempt to bridge the gap between genders in the world. In the words of Lakhani (Judge, ICJ), "I believe us girls [...] can't rely on anyone else to tell us our strengths."



Artwork by Patee Rohera



Photograph by Alain Meidinger

## A 21st-Century Empire

by Nicolas Ghandour

On Thursday evening in the World Forum Theater, the documentary *China's Conquest of the West* was shown. Nicolas Sridi, the co-producer along with Pierre Tiessen, who wasn't able to attend the movie night, complemented the film session with a series of Q&A with the audience.

Sridi and Tiessen first submitted their documentary project on China to Arte, a European TV channel, in 2013. As they had previously worked in China, and since the country's leader, Xi Jinping, labeled the immense "new silk roads" concerning the construction of road connections through Eurasia, which had already started in the 2000's, both French journalists were eager to investigate this unbelievable enterprise.

"We started gathering a reporting team in 2013 and proposed our project to Arte that same year. Arte validated our project in 2016," Sridi recounted after presenting the documentary at THIMUN on Thursday. "We then started filming our documentary from the city of Chongqing

ing all the way through Kazakhstan where the first was built." Their original goal of the documentary was to show how China promoted the western part of its country. Another objective was to show the construction of these new roads on a local, granular scale. As China is developing connections through the Indian Ocean, Africa and the South China Sea, the western half of the country is left deserted and undeveloped. The construction of infrastructure projects near Chinese outer borders would help economically dynamize this Chinese region and expand its free exchange roads. Instead of following maritime routes in order to join Europe, the merchandise would directly go through Eurosia's heart and reach Europe more rapidly.

Despite China's zealous promotion of the project, its neighbors have so far been tentative to the "new silk roads." Those countries have argued that their local businesses, on the border of the old roads, will suffer from the loss of consumers after the new roads are constructed. "Russia, even though [it is] in a good relationship with China, is really scared of China's territorial expansion," Sridi added. However, according to the documentary, Russia lacks the economic and technological capacity to respond to China's conquest of Eurasia.

According to the directors, the roads going through Kazakhstan advance towards an uninformed, nearly sleeping Europe. When the production team contacted Germany to ask them if they knew about the "new silk roads" project, their response was negative. Europe has been staying in a passive, observatory role, slow to realize the magnitude of China's influence. Meanwhile, China has already been buying Europe's technological firms and is quickly building high-speed train lines between European countries.

As Sridi said after the documentary was shown, Europe needs to wake up if the continent wants to keep up with China. However, it may already be too late.

Layout by Yuzine Yi



Artwork by Tep Khemarin Chan



# Iran vs. USA

## The RESULTS ARE IN

by Nicolas Ghandour

The case of Iran versus the United States concerning the U.S. exit from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and Iran's nuclear restrictions has been debated within the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In North America, near the World Forum Theater, a battle took place between advocates for the U.S. and advocates for Iran. The 19 judges finally deliberated and announced their verdict after a long-awaited vote.

In reality, the trial started a long time ago, when the U.S. and Iran chose their witnesses. The ambassador of Iran was called upon by both parties to be their witness. Iran's other witness was the Russian federation, whereas the U.S.'s other witness was Israel.

With Iran and the U.S. dictating their witnesses' speeches, the trial was nearly done before the event at the World Forum between the 29th and 30th of January. However, due to last minute complications, another delegate was assigned to be Israel's ambas-

sador, forcing a delegate to learn the whole case in 24 hours. According to one of the witnesses, the U.S. advocates had difficulties with organization, in contrast with Iran's professional preparation. The judges themselves made an observation regarding a few contradictions after the witness examinations. The ambassador of Russia responded clearly and helped move Iran toward a possible legal victory. The ambassador of Iran's performance was highly appreciated by the rest of the room and showed little sign of bias.

As the battle unfolded and the judges asked questions on different issues, it became more and more clear what their vote would be. After a long deliberation and a vote on Friday morning, the results were announced: the judges designated, in a unanimous voice, that the U.S. lost the case 19 votes to none.



Photographs by Emre Serkan Erçakir

# THIMUN Relationships: Purely Business or Something More?

by Seoeun (Sunny) Choi

Delegates congregate from all across the globe at the THIMUN conference. While they all have varying backgrounds, personalities and thoughts, conversations emerge through their shared passion for diplomacy and international issues. As lobbying and debating commence, bonds are forged among delegates, admins, chairs, press and student officers.

Many believe that friendships and social connections are only secondary to business to the majority of delegates at a prestigious conference like THIMUN. A quick expedition from the depths of Atlantic to the tops of Everest yielded similar answers: delegates agreed that they come to MUN to mainly debate and pass resolutions. However, they felt that the social connections they formed in their committees were what encouraged them to debate more fervently and work harder to pass the resolutions they created with their friends.

Erwann Millon (Delegate of the Russian Federation, Security Council) elaborated on the importance of relationships formed at THIMUN. "I think making friends, connecting with people is a huge part of THIMUN," he said. This was his third year participating and he has continued to keep in contact with students from his first year. He mentioned that they were currently planning on meeting up in The Hague.

From the abundant memories that constitute the once-in-a-lifetime THIMUN experience, Millon's was one of the many stories that

are guaranteed to stay unforgettable. "Last year I was Colombia, sitting next to China, and we became close friends." he began. He remembered their interactions clearly, as "just being friends meant that we could form these unlikely alliances." Millon continued by saying "[We tried] to bridge the gap between our countries by bridging the gap between ourselves as individuals. So that definitely allowed us to act diplomatically in our countries." However, not all friendships were strengthened through diplomatic bonds. Sometimes fate has a way of bringing delegates together through unfortunate accidents. A peculiar experience occurred to Luc van Kampen (Delegate of UN-Habitat, General Assembly 3) and Julia Morini (Head of Delegation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, GA3). Morini and van Kampen had met at last year's THIMUN. Although they came from different schools (Morini was enrolled in the Frankfurt International School in

Germany while van Kampen attends the SHAPE International High School in Belgium), they clicked with each other instantly. They had been seated next to each other in committee, representing Peru and Paraguay respectively. However, they did not know that their encounter would come to save Morini when she had found herself in a troublesome situation later in that week.

Morini had gotten off at the wrong train stop and found herself utterly lost.

"It was pretty funny," van Kampen laughed. "So basically she just called me and was like 'Hey Luc, I'm kinda like lost'. [...] I'm a native Dutch speaker and I come from here so I was like 'let's do this'. So I went into the hotel [...] hallway, pulled out my computer [...] and a bunch of other stuff. It was like CSI or the FBI. I built a whole control center in the hallway. [...] After pulling up all the times of the train and buses, [...] I got her safely back to the hotel."

This year each had known the other was returning and purposefully chose these specific delegations so they could sit next to each other.

Through exchanges of anecdotes and fond memories, it became clear how significant the relationships formed at THIMUN were in the lives of its participants. While the conference has lasted for only five busy days, everyone knows that the bonds we form today will last past tomorrow.

Layout by Melody Tai  
Artwork by Dariia Panasenka





# GA6: The Conscientious Committee

## Every Detail Matters

by Léa Henaux

The Legal Committee, General Assembly 6 (GA6), has debated four key topics this week: the legal status of returning jihadists, the question of diplomatic immunity, the issue of privacy protec-

tion by social media companies and the development of measures to eradicate the manufacture of counterfeit medicine.

As of Friday morning, at least one resolution on each topic has been debated, and three resolutions have been passed. The delegate of Brunei Luiza Aguiar Guimaraes said, “my resolution passed successfully – which was a relief because people were being rather harsh when voting. Other than that there hasn’t been any intense debate, and for now it’s been quite passive.” She also added that “the topics this year are fascinating and I definitely like them more than last year’s.”

Tony Platano, the delegate of the Russian Federation, is participating in THIMUN for the first time and has been happy with his experience in GA6 so far. “This committee was my first choice because I found the topics really interesting. My topic, which con-

cerns the legal status of jihadists, is especially interesting because it’s both a legal and moral issue. Also, I really liked reading about the counterfeit medicine, because the market is big, but also very dangerous.”

The lack of successful resolutions on the first day of voting is not uncommon, but delegates believe the situation in GA6 was especially severe. Victoria Lee, the delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic, said that “people have been very aggressive when it comes to voting. They haven’t let anything pass. The amendments are all more attacking; they either want to modify the meaning of the entire clause so that it suits them or to strike them.” Platano agreed and stated, “I was very surprised by the number of amendments that were struck. In my MUN club at school, we don’t usually strike amendments. We try to add to them and to be more constructive rather than negative.” Lee, on the other hand, believes that one of the reasons few resolutions have passed is that they were focused on “the wrong aspect of this committee, [such as] the humanitarian rights, and so their resolutions



were more suited for the Human Rights Committee.”

An additional difficulty of being a delegate in the legal committee is the requirement of thorough knowledge of legal concepts and associations, such as the International Court of Justice, the International Court of Crime and the Vienna Convention. Lee explained that “GA6 is special because we are working with international law and national law. All the other committees are coming up with solutions, whereas we are coming up with legal frameworks.”

GA6 is continuing to work towards creating strong and constructive resolutions. Their goal is to produce legitimate pieces of legislation to address the pressing issues at hand.

Photographs by Selina Demaré



# Teachers Find Their Voice In Protest Downtown

by David Wolfe Bender

Earlier this week, a group of primary and secondary school teachers in the Netherlands announced that they will be protesting in The Hague for various school reforms. The Netherlands Times reported that close to 59 percent of primary schools will be closed due to the strike. That represents almost 4,000 schools in the Netherlands.

With the strike occurring during the THIMUN conference, THIMUN attendees drew comparisons to the conference’s theme of “Securing and Advancing Democracy.”

“[The protest] provides a collective voice for the teachers themselves,” Janna Serniak (MUN director, American School of The Hague) said, “Democracy is transparency. Without those protests, I think people can remain ignorant – willfully or otherwise.”

Serniak is not part of the protests, as she does not work in a public institution, but she discussed what teachers internationally are looking for in a job.

“I think teachers are looking for balance not only in their classrooms, but in their lives,” she said. “They want to be able to pay their bills [and] go to

the doctor.”

According to the teacher’s union, the teachers are looking for many reforms, including higher wages and the hiring of more instructors for classrooms, with the goal of creating smaller class sizes. The Dutch government, however, has been resistant to any substantial increases in teacher pay, asserting earlier this week that it “must be arranged in the next cabinet period.”

“Most of the teachers that I know entered the profession because they believe in the value of education,” Serniak said. “At a time when you’ve got the demise of our global institutions and [...] fake news, education is really important.”

“Democracy relies on the notion that everyone has a voice,” Serniak said. “If individuals do not have that voice [...] then protest needs to happen as a way to enlighten the populace.”

This week, THIMUN delegates have discovered different ways to find their own voice. The teachers’ protest in The Hague served as a close example of how that theme applies outside of their committees.

Layout by Doris Huang  
Artwork by Tep Khemarin Chan





# Final Brexit Approval Coincides

by Gabe Fleisher

with THIMUN

As THIMUN delegates debate resolutions on topics ranging from human rights to environmental protection, there is one issue that isn't being formally discussed at the conference but is dominating discussion outside its halls: Brexit.

Three and a half years after voters in the United Kingdom shocked the world by choosing to leave the European Union, the country is finally severing ties with the continental alliance an hour before midnight on Friday.

As the hours tick down until Britain officially bids farewell to the EU, a number of question marks remain stubbornly floating in the air: how will the move impact the economies of Britain, Europe and the world as a whole? What will be the result of the as-yet-unfinished negotiations between the UK and EU? What does the withdrawal mean for the already-fragile border between the Republic of Ireland and their former countrymen to the north?

One THIMUN delegate and British native, Sam Hacker (Delegate of Georgia, Special Conference Sub-Commission 1), took something of a pessimistic view of post-Brexit Europe. He thinks Brexit will lead to nothing less than the total collapse of the United Kingdom itself. "Within the scope of 10 to 20 years," he forecasted, "Ireland will leave completely. Scotland will leave the United Kingdom completely. They'll try and get into the EU. I reckon Ireland will make it, maybe Scotland, I'm not so sure. So then you'd be left with England and Wales, and I think England will try and drop Wales as well, because of the economic struggles that Wales is facing" — and just like that, Hacker has envisaged the unraveling of centuries of diplomatic bonds in a matter of minutes.

"This is absolutely, you know, probably the worst thing that's happened to England since World War II," he continued gloomily. "It's really, really bad."

But other THIMUN delegates interviewed — even those that had been opposed to Brexit when it originally came up for a vote — said they had become anxious for the long-awaited pull-out to finally be underway. "As a citizen living in the United Kingdom at the moment, I think that it's definitely a positive that Brexit is finally being finalized and that the UK government and



Artwork by Tep Khemarin Chan

the European Union have finally reached an agreement," Giulio Bianco (Delegate of Belarus, General Assembly 6) said. "There has definitely been a standoff for quite a while, which I think was not beneficial for both entities."

For Bianco, his hesitation about the economic implications of leaving the European Union aside, supporting its advancement now boils down to embracing a value that should be familiar to fellow THIMUNites: the importance of securing democracy.

**"Yeah, I wasn't personally a Brexiteer," he explained, "but I am in favor of democratic representation, which is why I think, regardless of the benefits and downsides of Brexit, in the end, it's the people's will that should be carried out."**

Brexit is also a deeply personal issue for many at the THIMUN conference, including those who divide their time between the United Kingdom and other countries — as it could imperil their ability to travel between their nations of origin and residence.

**"As a world traveler, it's really putting a stick in plans for expats and businesses to operate abroad and it's also just not beneficial to the overall economy. . . so I don't appreciate Brexit,"**

Lucine Strecker (Delegate of Turkey, EC2) said.

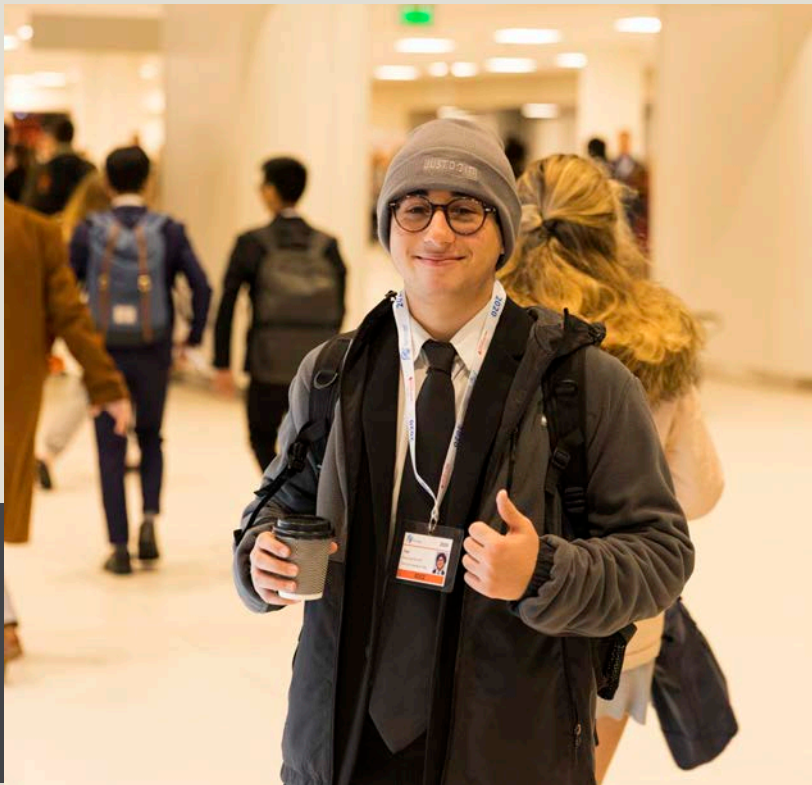
Likewise, Martin Goff, an MUN director who was born in England but teaches at Aiglon College in Switzerland, said he recently obtained an Irish passport (he was qualified for one due to his mother's birthplace) to mitigate Brexit's potential effect on his Swiss visa. "I picked one up really as insurance in case my work permit status changes, in case anything changes in terms of residency," he said. "I got this just in case."

Goff is staunchly opposed to Brexit, saying the 2016 vote "does make you question whether democracy is, in actual fact, the correct option" for governments to pursue.

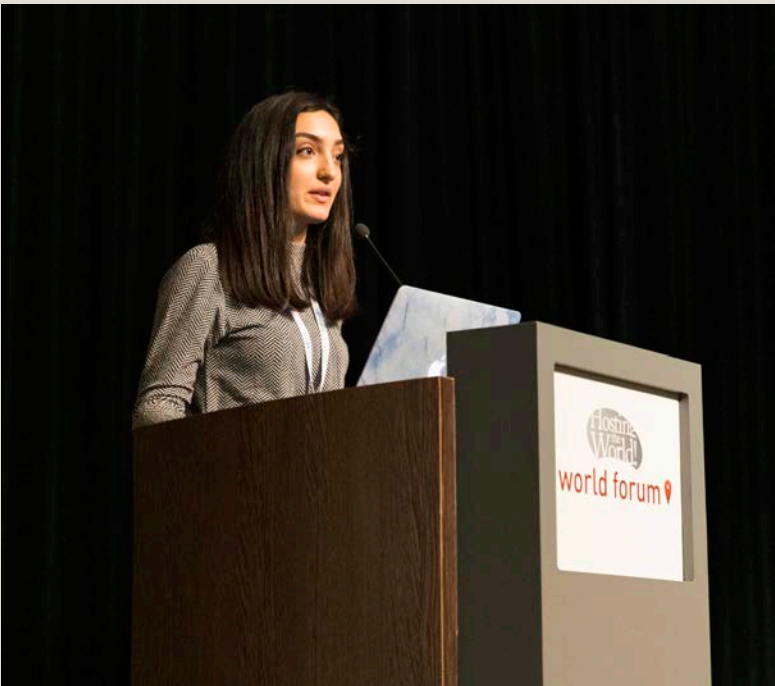
How does he, a THIMUN board member, reconcile that dose of self-government cynicism with THIMUN's theme of securing and advancing democracy?

"With difficulty," he said, balancing a laugh and grimace at the same time.

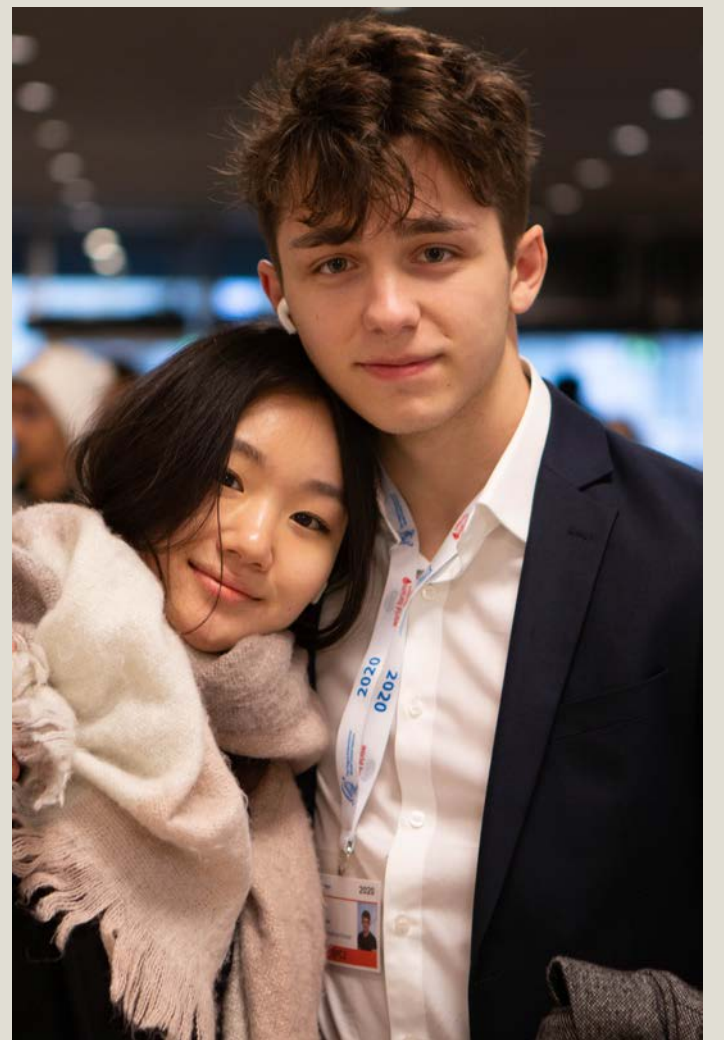




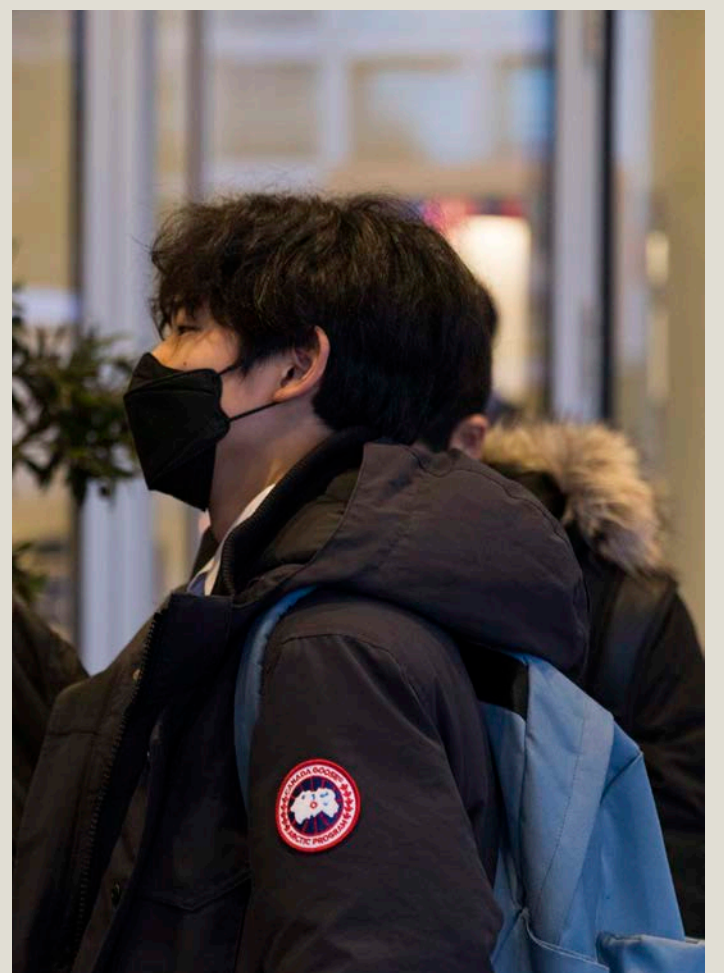
# Conference Candids







Conference Candidates





# Who is KYLE?

by Léa Henaux



Artwork by Zoya Lulu Kirmani

Aditya Kulkarmi (Delegate of Nigeria, General Assembly 1) and Hope-Jr Webber (Delegate of Kazakhstan, GA1) created the fictional character of Kyle while lobbying in their committee and spread their resolutions regarding Kyle across the forum.

When asked about their motives for creating Kyle, Kulkarmi said, "We wanted to [...] present the stereotypical THIMUN delegate. Once we started lobbying one person, we had to continue." The delegates also assured us that "Kyle is not a real person. We invented Kyle. He was just meant to represent an annoying delegate. We told everyone that he's that one annoying delegate who tries to bring everybody down and who spreads completely negative vibes."

Their co-conspirator, Massimiliano Dijkgraaf (Delegate of Nigeria, GA4), explained the origins of the joke: "Last year we wrote a similar resolution demanding the removal of John from THIMUN. This year we decided to recreate it, and take it a step further. The main goal was to get everyone at THIMUN talking



Aditya Kulkarmi & Hope-Jr Webber about this Kyle."

Webber added, "It was kind of a challenge to try and get the most signatures possible." First, they tackled their own committee and managed to collect around 50 signatures from the participants there. Then, they began lobbying in other committees until three different signatory sheets were being passed around the conference.

Through their fabrication of Kyle, the delegates created a relatable cause that transcended their committees and extended to the entire THIMUN community. Hundreds of delegates bonded over their shared dislike of the imaginary "Kyle," and the instigators of the resolution

became sorts of celebrities. Kyle had spread so far that by Tuesday afternoon, delegates were coming up to the three delegates in the corridors and introducing them to their friends as "the Kyle guy." Webber added, "Some guy even came up to me and gave me a bottle of Coca-Cola."

Pushy, condescending, and disparaging, Kyle represents the darkest traits of the archetypal MUN delegate. He is a reminder of the type of behavior that delegates should try to avoid if they want to succeed at THIMUN.



Massimiliano Dijkgraaf

Photographs by Selina Demaré

Since Monday morning, a resolution has been floating around the committees demanding the immediate removal of Kyle from THIMUN. This turmoil has raised many questions within the delegates, notably:

"Who is Kyle?" and more importantly: "What did he do?"

# THE WORLD FORUM: Wifi NotSpot?

by Natasha Faruqui

In our increasingly technological world, WiFi is about as necessary as food and water. Computers have become the new pen and paper of MUN, and as the THIMUN conference becomes increasingly paperless, maintaining a strong Internet connection is vital.

This week, delegates were shocked

that the conference WiFi was slow and spotty. Complaints regarding the World Forum's WiFi performance and consistency have become commonplace.

"The WiFi is slow, bad, and doesn't load simple applications," Mees van Alteena (Admin) said. "It keeps on going on and off throughout the whole week," Adrija Das (Delegate of New Zealand, Special Conference 1) echoed. "Especially because all resolutions are online now, greater access to WiFi definitely would have helped make the conference more efficient." Both Das and van Alteena stated that the WiFi strength varies in different areas of the building.

Often, participants have found that issues with the Internet connection have interrupted their work. "As an Admin, I have to be able to look where certain rooms are, especially on the first day when I had to help lost delegates," van Alteena added. "But I couldn't load the THIMUN website on the first half of the first day."

Similarly, Sophie Faucher (Delegate of Nicaragua, SPC1) found that the spotty WiFi prevented her from fulfilling her role as a delegate. "I haven't been able to log into the app at all, so I haven't seen any resolutions on my computer," she said. "All I can see is two or three clauses on my screen, so my debates are limited by the information available."

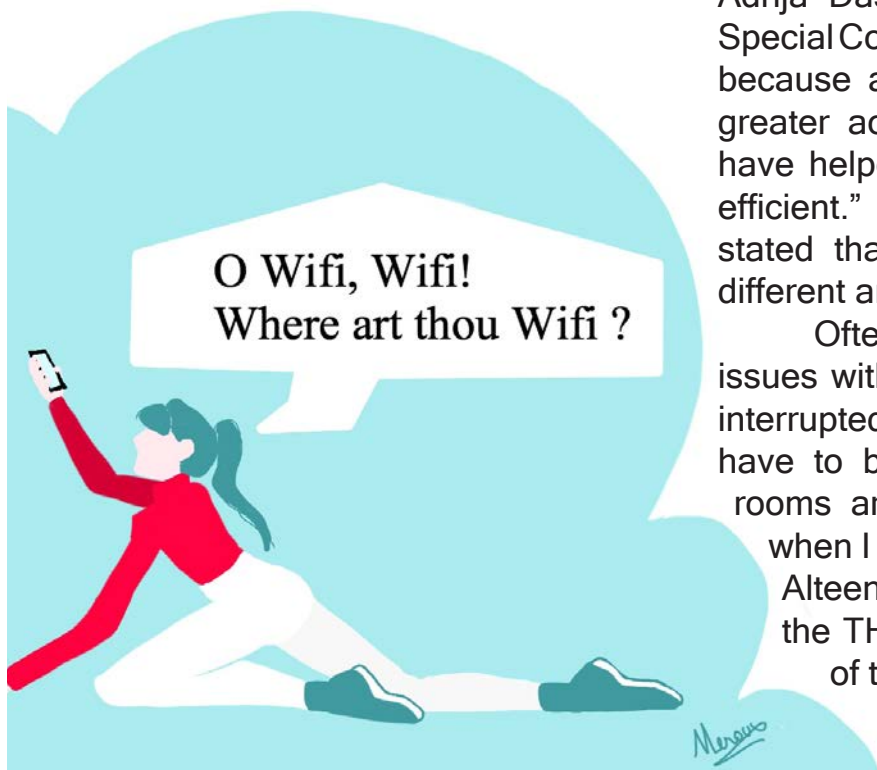
Abbi Gough (Admin) stated that on the first day of THIMUN, the delegates of the GA1 committee all had to airdrop their resolutions to the chairs using cellular data.

In addition to the WiFi issues causing trouble in committees, she added that the spotty Internet connection definitely poses an obstacle to accessing the newspaper.

"The other Admins and I had trouble opening the app on the second day, which is where the newspaper is," she said. "After that, we didn't even try to open it again. We haven't read a single issue."

All conference members interviewed shared a collective sentiment in hoping that next year, the WiFi will be stronger.

Artwork by Valentine Leroux  
Layout by Selma Choden





# Cartoon Collection



Artwork by Martina Rodriguez



Artwork by Charlotte Widmaier



Artwork by Valentine Leroux



Artwork by Zoya Lulu Kirmani