



# THE MUMMER HERALD

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## THE EVER LEARNING YOUTH

- The Indian Express

Why do we harbour hatred for people different than us – be it because of a different colour, a different language or different cultures? What does it mean to have a pure race? These are the questions that we must ask ourselves and others. Being a youth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in the age of reason, these are walls that are based on groundless perceptions. It is wide off the mark to believe in such constructions between people while the world is facing more pressing issues – poverty, terrorism, food security, human rights, among many others. It must always be in our best interests to work together through dialogue to bring about the world peace we talk so much about.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2017, as the clock struck 10 and the sun was almost at all its glory, the animated voices of the delegates toned down, and the President of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Maria's Model United Nations took the stage to extend a warm welcome to all the delegates and their escorting teachers. Thereafter, to commemorate the auspicious occasion, the lighting of the lamp was done by the dignitaries. Our MUN Director thanked all the present schools for their active participation in the event and offered gratitude towards the out-station schools of Numaligarh and Jorhat, who had sent delegates to the event despite the distance.

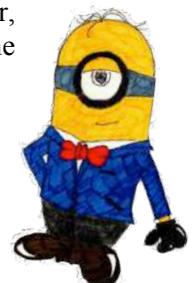
The trickle of unfeigned oration began with an address to the gathering by the chief guest, Mr. Huzefa Kapadia. As the former President of Ivy League Model United Nations, Mr. Kapadia's career has so far revolved around education and

the application of knowledge and skills. His speech stirred the delegates to, as he quoted from Alvin Toffler, "to learn, unlearn and relearn". He also alluded there were, according to him, 9 reasons to do MUN while actively encouraging the delegates to find the 10<sup>th</sup> to a millionth reason to continue to partake in it. He concluded his speech with a documentary, "The DNA Journey", which illuminated our minds by convincing us that we have more in common with the world than we think, and that an open world begins with an open mind.

A message by our Founder-Managing Trustee, Nellie Ahmed Tanveer, was conveyed to the august gathering by our respected Principal, Alpana Ma'am. She wished all the participating delegates the best for the three days, and urged them to learn while on the job as the school believes in "Learning beyond the classroom" at all times.

The inaugural ceremony was concluded by the Secretary General of MMUN 2017, Anurag Baruah. He hoped that delegates will come to know each other over the course of the following days of working together, and wished everyone courage and luck. With this, he introduced the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of all the committees by handing over the gavels to all the residing Chairs. Shortly thereafter, with the loud bang of the gavel on the podium, MMUN 2017 was thus declared open.

The opening ceremony was enlightening. Welcome back for day 2!



**BUILDING BARRIERS: THE CONTROVERSY OF TRUMP'S MEXICO WALL****Reuters, Beat Reporter****Left to right: Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump****Photo Courtesy: The New York Times**

We live in a world of borders and walls. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, twenty-seven new walls and fences have come up on political borders around the world. The most recent of such proposals which has attracted intense controversy is the construction of the Mexico Wall by the United States, a promise made by President Donald Trump in his journey to 'make America great again'.

While debating on this issue of contemporary relevance, the delegates of the futuristic committee, the USPE 2020, put forward interesting viewpoints regarding the sanctity of the Wall and the purpose it will serve in limiting drug smuggling and illegal immigration into the US.

Many critics have continued to believe that the undocumented immigrants who were rounded up and deported back to Mexico in 2017 will try going back to the US even after the building of the Wall. Poor economic conditions and the need to feed their families leave no other option available to these immigrants.

"If Trump's wall is 30 feet, there's going to be a 31-foot ladder now," migrant advocate Enrique Morones had said. "It doesn't stop people, it just slows them down." Looking at the bigger picture, it is no wonder that when in committee Trump mentioned making America great again, Elizabeth Warren exclaimed, "Don't make Trump president again!"

**TURMOIL WITHIN THE BALKAN STATES****The New York Times, Columnist****Photo Courtesy: The New York Times**

Peace starts with negotiations and bloodshed ends with havoc and annihilation. With the dawn of the day, the committee started off with the usual roll call, and the limelight was most sought after by the delegate of the Russian empire and the delegate of the Ottoman Empire.

As the committee sessions commenced with the much required boost among the delegates of the 'Congregation of Balkan states', the committee later gradually slowed down its pace. In spite of the instabilities, the delegate of Russian empire stated with the needed vigour that it supports for the conflicts to be solved and head toward a road of peace and stability. The delegate also stated that the old treaties were not feasible and needs a concrete change. This stance left room for more



arguments. Later the delegate of Russian empire stated that the 'Mankind must put an end to wars before war puts an end to mankind.'

The delegate of Ottoman Empire raised its viewpoint quite meticulously and hence ended up with logical quotes as the committee proceeded. Distracted by the fact that few of the delegates were in a labyrinth regarding the agenda of the committee, thereafter it was solved during a series of informal sessions.

Both the sides, the Russian and the Ottoman delved into the nature of a controversial topic which focussed around territories, and pushed the committee to a constant state of agony.

## MUNners Anonymous (Written by The Hindu)

In the middle of the ruthless monotony and sweet lull of the committee sessions, and the tiring debates and discussions which often accompany them, the delegates sometimes find themselves in certain bizarre situations which do a good job at amusing them, even if it's only for a short while. These wacky circumstances that the delegates find themselves in may initially appear as a source of great embarrassment and disappointment, but they surely serve well in the writing of future IPC articles. Although these stories have been published for the delight of other delegates, these amazingly forthcoming delegates have wished to remain anonymous, for obvious reasons.

*"I'm very loud and hyperactive. I tend to become rowdy during the committee sessions. I've always ended up shouting at other delegates. I was almost about to come close to hitting a few of my fellow delegates during verbal challenges. In spite of a number of warnings and predilections by the chairs, I'm still the 'hot-head' of any committee I attend. I've tried my best to work on this attitude, but all my efforts continue to be in vain."* We suggest delegates suffering from the Hot-Head Syndrome to take a deep breath and let it all go. The world is at the brink of a world war anyway.



*"I had found a really good pun to use in my speech for a moderated caucus. I really thought that the other delegates would applaud me after I finish my speech, but it backfired. Instead of being appreciated, I ended up getting thrashed by other delegates who found my comment to be insensitive and agonistic. I was ridiculed throughout the committee for that comment of mine."* Tsk Tsk. It's like choking to death on the pill of immortality. There are times when jinx strikes hard, as we know that when ill luck begins it does not drizzle, it torrents.



*"During an unmoderated caucus, we were discussing and preparing our resolutions. A delegate whom I didn't know so well started socializing with me, and we became comfortable with each other after a while. I had to use the washroom so I handed my draft resolution (which was quite meticulously written by me) to the delegate and asked her to go through it. After I came back from the washroom, I realized that she was a member of a different bloc and that the clauses that I had made were on the resolution of the other bloc."* Hey, don't be hard on yourself! Everyone falls prey to the predatory lion once in a while. Count your blessings for you're still alive to tell the tale.



*"There was this delegate of Russia in UNEP once who kept on calling himself the delegate of Soviet Union. When the chair pointed out that he was the delegate of Russia and that Soviet Union has ceased to exist, he shouted, 'Whatever, I'm the Soviet Union!'"* Maybe the delegate entered the UNEP accidentally instead of a historical committee he had been allotted to. Hmm.

*"I was doing pretty well in the committee. I was quite happy with my performance, but later in the second half I had started to feel sick and had to rushed to the sickroom. After I came back, I was attending the committee session by putting my head down. The next day, I found my picture in the 'Hall of Shame' along with the other delegates who were found sleeping and not attending the committee."* Feel privileged, delegate! Your photo had been published in the newsletter. Even the good

delegates who are several MUNs old aren't easily able to grasp the attention of the Press. Moreover, there's no such thing as bad publicity.

*"In an inter-city MUN, I met a girl from a different country for whom I fell head over heels in love with. She had touched my emotions deeply and I'm still not being able to forget her even after the MUN ended. It's really hard for me to get over*

*her."* Seriously speaking? This confession was sweet. But sadly enough, doodling hearts and making googly eyes does not make people fall in love with you. Trust us, we wish it worked that way too.



*"I along with my best friend were working on a resolution with my bloc. In spite of considerable contribution, our names weren't added as sponsors and we got into a verbal spat with the authors. So when the voting for the resolution started, I initially didn't vote for it. Surprisingly, the resolution needed only 2 more votes to fail. Not surprisingly, me and my friend voted against it to show that one shouldn't mess with us."* Matilda Wormwood would have been on cloud nine to see her 'ideals'

being kept alive by such bright delegates.

### AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS

The Times Of India, Beat Reporter

Photo Courtesy: The Times

Left to right: Manmohan Singh, Mohan Bhagwat

AIPPM started out with "Hum aapke hain kaun" but gradually moved to an atmosphere of "Hum saath saath hain". Although a lingering "Tujhe sab tha pata, hain na Maa" could be sensed in one of the corners of the committee (read : Congress). Sparks started to fly early in the committee with the GSL, kick-started by Mohan Bhagwat, the so-called "father of Narendra Modi" by Manmohan Singh, who in turn was made the scapegoat of the committee.

In an already eccentric atmosphere, the real show began with the discussion of the JNU incident, where one saw Yogiji quoting anti-national slogans, while the stuttering Rahul Gandhi, soft-spoken Sitaram Yechuri, unusually adamant Manmohan Singh and the inexhaustible Asaduddin Owaisi pointed out that the youth should be guided towards the 'right path' rather than 'right prison cell'.

Manmohan Singh after 10 dormant years led the opposition with quite gusto, challenging Hemanta Biswa Sarma, which was declined by the later. But Mohan Bhagawat came to the

rescue of the dejected Singh by presenting him with a challenge which turned out to be such a fanfare that the Speaker was forced to intervene. The committee was still fired up as the delegates moved to discussing, "Do sedition laws violate freedom of speech?". Senior citizen Manmohan Singh, with his new-found love for the youth took the committee by a storm. In



between the discussion, the committee witnessed Yogi Adityanath comparing the youth of JNU to a wild elephant, and Narendra Modi stating that "Even the fastest car has a limit, so does the exercise of the freedom of speech."

With the change in caucuses the fire started to extinguish as there were motions raised. A tiny spark could be seen in the form of Hemanta Biswa Sarma raising the motion for entertainment again and again which finally was passed. Thanks to Manmohan Singh's melodious voice the delegates were able to move to lunch with their nerves soothed.

## THE SUMMERTIME HIBERNATION

Al Jazeera, Columnist

Photo Courtesy : Al Jazeera



With hopes of making acquaintance with a committee enriched with energetic conversations, relentlessly tackling crises, and also to relieve the exertion of walking two floors of stairs, the reporter of Al Jazeera was eager to open the doors of the UNODC committee and be awash with the sense of nervous excitement.

The chairperson of the UNODC committee was jovial and was trying to ease the edgy first timers by starting off at a casual note and holding an introductory session. But then the leopard's spots changed and the chair became as stern as ever. The proceedings started with the General Speakers List on the topic of 'Narcos State War' and the endless discussion on how the ministers of any of the countries must not proceed with the blame game and use preventive measures to stop the illegal smuggling of narcotics and drugs were thrown around the room. The delegate of Columbia quoted a catchy phrase spoken by a famous personality which states, "The war on narcotics is more dangerous than any other wars." The delegates of USA, Columbia, China, Iran and a few other delegates proved to be incessant speakers whereas the rest of the delegates seemed to be in a deep slumber which could only be portrayed as suffering from 'hibernation'.

The crisis, which was contemplated as a breath of fresh air, was crooked by the delegates to fill our nostrils with nothing but staleness and rancidity. The three R's-rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration for mules used in trafficking drugs were cleverly stated by the delegate of Columbia. But where it could have turned into an accusatory session, the delegates behaved in utmost synchrony and did not charge each other as guilty. The working paper humoured the press delegate; the paper submitted by the delegates of USA, Columbia, China, Cambodia, Afghanistan and various others who clearly had not followed their foreign policies, had requested the UNODC committee to regulate the three R protocols which did not come under their workings and guidelines. The second paper, authorised by the delegate of UK, asked for MI-6 to investigate drug crimes in Cambodia, when MI-6 does not exist! The speculators were all gaping with open mouths when the chair disregarded both papers. The delegates were all stretched taut like a wire and the laborious proceedings were like biting into a sour grape: it made one want to swear off of eating it forever.

## BEGINS THE "SMART MOUTH SESSION"!

The China Daily, Beat Reporter

Photo Courtesy: Al Jazeera



Well displayed by the chief guest that illiterate of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn. And surely magic happens when we are outside our comfort zone. Model United Nations (MUN) is a platform of exposure and understanding, and casting our talents and knowledge. Maria's MUN is going to be a worthwhile experience, and the purpose of the discussion is to know the significance of our findings in light and find solutions into consideration. 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017, the first day of the MMUN was heated with arguments and discussions. The reporter of The China Daily covered the UNDESA committee, which consisted of 26 delegates each representing different countries. The committee started off with the presiding and it was evident that the

entire lot of delegates were filling with enthusiasm and fire in their bellies. The motion on which the discussion took place was on the convention of the youth and the endless list included - present scenario of the economic and health status. The discussion heated up even more when the challenge round emerged and that's what a real challenge was - with seconds in fingertips, the delegates raised the temperature with their arguments. The topics went all the way through the world powers putting forth their arguments stating, "How dare you say African states are poor?" And without any doubt each delegate would think critically, develop creative solutions based upon a logical synthesis and all the hypotheses that knock every young thinker!

**LESS PEOPLE, MORE POWER**

The Guardian, Columnist

Photo Courtesy: The New York Times



The United States Presidential Election 2020, a futuristic committee under the guidance of the respected Secretary General, gained momentum from the first day itself. Not disheartened in the least by the relatively small number of delegates in attendance, the dais as well as the delegates surely understood the value of quality before quantity as they put forward an engaging session. The first session was taken by the Chair to explain the rules of procedure and clear any lingering doubts that the delegates had. This was followed by the tea break during which the delegates were requested to think of points as to why they should be elected as the party representative and subsequently as the president of the United States of America. With the commencement of the second session came the initiation of the General Speakers' List interspersed with a plethora of moderated caucuses on topics ranging from the Mexico Wall to the Syrian crisis. This gave an opportunity to the delegates to showcase their oratory skills, which they did with commendable research. It was interesting to see even the first-timers take active part in the discussions, not

shying away from speaking up but rather making their opinions heard.

But this is not to say that the committee was only engaged in formal debates and discussions. Between the changing personalities taking up the position of the President (the delegate was absent) to Paul Ryan's suspicions about the President funding terrorists, the delegates kept the laughter rolling. Another funny moment came when the President was nowhere to be found during the discussion on the Syrian crisis. Hm. We wonder why.

The first day came to an end with the delegates voting to elect the party representatives, the results of which were decided by a lucky draw hand-picked by the MUN director of the school. The results declared Nikki Haley and Bernie Sanders as the nominees from the Republican Party and the Democratic Party respectively. While the day ended on a positive note with the successful election of the party representatives, the winner of the presidential election 2020 remains to be seen.

