





<u>Press Conferences</u> <u>Concluded</u>	<u>All Good Things</u> <u>Come to an End</u>	<u>Today's Feature</u>	Editor's Diary
Reports on UNSC,	SMUN 2021 Closing	Interview with	A Tribute to
Senate and Crisis	Ceremony	IOC Chair Yuxuan	Press Corps

Partici

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Press Releases



Interesting turn of events for UNSC

By Issac Ong Zi En and Cao Jingyu

Despite unifying into one group in concordant agreement, the air was thick with tension, and fraught with much conflict as confusion took hold of the council once again. Questions were asked. Doubt was evident. Semantics became a flash-point ripe for conflict as the draft resolution was put under heavy scrutiny. The behaviour of delegates had become notably aggressive, as cross-talking turned commonplace.

The chaotic meeting came to a conclusion as delegates raised the placards on the draft resolution, the last in a series of three...

Green light given for resolution?

The resolution ended up finally passing with an overwhelming, and almost unanimous majority, notwithstanding the delegate of India; his sole opposition was frowned upon by much of the council. This momentous occasion, a far cry from the inefficiencies that plagued day one, symbolised an uneasy resolution to a frenzied discussion on ceasefires -- a notably garden variety issue. As much as the resolution saw the approval of council members, it also received heavy backlash from the chairs, who criticised the policies as being too "vague". To the presiding chairs, it was abundantly clear that the resolution was a catch-all, cure-all, panacea for all the ills brought about by ceasefire negotiations (or lack thereof).

Correspondents -- caught in the crossfires of conflict

Although the delegate of China vocally expressed his disdain for his American counterpart (as evidenced by an exclusive interview with XinHua), his reserve during today's session ensured a tense, but nonetheless diplomatic atmosphere. Regardless, tensions were unavoidable; the American delegate -- in a firm and assertive tone -- was



quick to point out China's status as a signatory in the draft resolution after the Chinese delegate unwittingly responded to a question posed by a member of the council. (Note: Signatories are not allowed to reply to queries during a closed debate)

In the reading of the jointly-proposed draft resolution, the Indian delegate raised his concerns over Article II, Section 4, which reads as follows:

"(The UNSC) Decides to establish a centralised war analytics and monitoring working group, also known as the War Analytics and Regional Monitoring Working Group (WARM)"

The Indian delegate specified that there already was a pre-existing sanctions body in the council, thus rendering WARM redundant. He further expressed his disappointment in council proceedings as he evaluated the discussions thus far as a vain attempt to rush out a resolution. The Vietnamese and American delegates fired back, and took up the endeavor of clarifying the nuanced differences between the proposed WARM and the sanctions body. Nonetheless, their explanations were insufficient in elucidating the Indian delegate's query: The Indian delegate doubled down, and managed to rally the Russian delegate in substantiating his arguments. Strangely, both delegates had butted heads during the previous day's committee session, suggesting that tensions between the two parties had been eased.

Hostilities then boiled to a fever pitch as the Vietnamese delegate coolly snapped, saying:

"What part of my words do you not understand?"

This was met by an increasingly indignant Indian delegate, who attempted to defend his stance amid an overwhelming cacophony of voices. In order to re-establish stability in the council, the chairs were forced to intervene.

Press conference with Xinhua and AP

The final resolution did not seem to be effective due to its non-binding nature, and as such, AP Correspondents clarified whether the resolution would include an enforcement body to ensure that ceasefires are not breached.

The correspondent referenced the 2016 Syrian Civil War ceasefires, where the lack of administrative processes led to the derailing of peace negotiations. With regard to encouraging countries to take a more active role in facilitating ceasefire negotiations,



the delegate of the United States stated that the two working groups, by which he meant both the existing Sanctions Committee and the proposed WARM, would effectively create a climate in which negotiations between the parties to the conflict could take place.

The delegate of the United Kingdom also reiterated the importance of such a confidencebuilding process. However, it appeared that the supporting member states were merely pinning their hopes on the additional help of criminal justice experts, without considering the possibility that such a measure would be ineffective. Furthermore, such ambiguities in their framework endanger the peace-building process, especially since the resolution hardly seems to have specified concrete peace-building measures in more detail



Press conference with the Presidium

By Gabe Chang and Toh Yu Qi

Press: What are the main reasons for taking a peaceful approach against protestors in the end?

Ivan Yakolev (Chief of Police, Satellite States):

We took that approach because we wanted to give our people what they wanted. In fact, we are a communist nation that stands for its people, not against its people and our people are only in the mainland USSR. Our people are the people from Moscow, therefore we give them what they want. Our people have the right to choose, as said by glorious leader Mikhail Gorbachev and therefore we took this approach.

Press: How do you feel about the recent oil trade events in which updates announced that international oil prices are now relatively stable?

Andrei Gromyko (Chairman of the Presidium):

Myself and my vice have been actively engaged in trying to solve this oil crisis. One of the most significant things we have done was to attend a convoy of delegation to the Saudi Arabia Petroleum Agreement. To which, we have sought to strike an agreement with regards to oil pricing which resulted in the stabilisation of the current international oil price.

Press: It has been clear that the Presidium's directives have been not showing expected outcomes recently. What do you feel should be done to improve the reliability of your committee's actions?

Andrei Gromyko (Chairman of the Presidium):

That question is a rather excellent one regarding what has unfolded, especially with all the negative side backs we have faced as an entire council. I believe most of it can be attributed to what we call an act of god but I believe on our part we can play a more



direct role in improving the outcomes of the negative setbacks, including contributing to a more comprehensive model and framework of our directives as well as each of us plays an important role in all council directives we send in.

Press: It is seen that there is a rising fear of corruption and tax legislations amongst citizens. What do you feel can be done to tackle corruption and assure the citizens besides the recent anti-corruption council directive?

Yegor Ligachyov (Second Secretary of the CPSU):

I think there are numerous ways you tackle corruption. I think that most importantly we should also be embarking on education programmes and starting to grow the youth from young, that corruption is a bad problem and they cannot perpetuate the cycle of corruption. After all, I do think that for one, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) is of paramount importance in this fight against corruption because we need to stamp out corruption within the upper levels of the government before we move on as a nation.

Press: Why did the committee not take action against corruption earlier as it is the main hindrance to the growth of the economy?

Vladimir Orlov (Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR): I don't think it was that the committee didn't recognise the importance of stopping corruption but there were other more pressing issues at that time that needed to be dealt with in a more efficient and fast manner. For example, the Chernobyl crisis was an extremely big issue that we needed to deal with and because we were quite brought down by our resources and manpower. We didn't really have time to tackle corruption until later on after we solved the Chernobyl crisis. So, yeah I think that was the main reason. It was just that we were doing other things. We couldn't tackle the issue of corruption at the same time.

Conclusion

It is evident that the members of the Presidium have been trying hard to put together the pieces of the puzzles to build a better USSR. However, it seems that luck is not on their side as many directives end up being delayed or are passed with unexpected consequences.

However, rest assured that the Presidium will preserve and strive to strengthen the might of the USSR on the world stage.



New-York Daily Tribune

The US Senate Press Conference: Transcribed

By Blaise Hwang and Parijaat Jain

A Brief Preface:

On the 9th of June, the New York Daily Tribune and the Charleston Courier were fortunate enough to conduct a joint press conference with the US senate. This conference served the purpose of clarifying doubts that had arisen during the course of debate and filling in the gaps that Senators had left. The press conference also prompted Senators to consider aspects of the annexation of Texas which they had previously ignored or disregarded.

Enclosed below is a transcript of the aforementioned press conference. Do note that sentences may have been edited minimally for clarity (such as the deletion of 'ums' and other pauses), and that in some cases, the section of a senator's reply which we felt represented their stance was presented (to avoid rambling and repetition affecting our readers' understandings of the transcript).

The New York Daily Tribune has taken the utmost care to honestly report the proceedings of the press conference. Readers may rest assured that the transcribed contents follow the senators word for word.

[TRANSCRIPT START]

Qn1: Given the considerable feedback on some senators being inconsistent with their party values, how are senators now seeking to mend this gap?

Senator Robert M.T. Hunter: Personally, despite some senators having differing views as mentioned earlier, it was all due to information not being understood by most senators. So it doesn't seem to be a major issue right now as most of us have gotten the right idea and our stances back on track in alignment with our party values. We should be able to quickly get back on track and solve the issues caused by any discrepancies.



Senator Reverdy Johnson: I'd like to first mention how senators aren't really bound by their party values. More so, they are bound by the obligation to the state they are representing. For instance, even though I am a Whig, I govern the state of Maryland and it is heavily a slave state. Therefore, most of the senators are representing more of their individual state rather than their party's stances. Even though there are irrevocable changes to their party's stances that we still should follow - for instance the Whigs despise slavery- it is not by any means binding to us. We hope to reconcile this difference by being able to find compromise between the two parties.

Qn2: Does the Senate think that the international relations with as close a geographical neighbour as Mexico can be compromised for the sake of a stake over Texas?

Senator Jabez W. Huntington: I think, in this senator's very humble opinion, Mexico *is* a neighbour, and as much as the United States has its own trajectory, we should by all - by hook or by crook - try to accommodate our neighbours as well. After all, as you can see, especially in the case of Mexico, there are our southern neighbors. We must try our best to forge bilateral relations, because we are not here to advocate for war. We are here, as legislators, to ensure that we can reach somewhat of a consensus - and to a certain extent, compromise. So in my humble opinion, I believe that our relationship with Mexico should be preserved as best as possible.

Senator Albert C. Greene: This senator believes strongly in putting Americans first and this senator firmly believes that even by causing tensions with Mexico and Britain, we'll be placing the welfare of Americans first. This is something the senator feels is worth believing in.

Senator William Woodbridge: We do not want to compromise our relationship with Mexico, that's the entire agenda. But it seems like the Democrats are actually against it at this point in time.

Qn3: How does the Senate plan to address the immediate threat of the Mexican troops currently stationed along the Texas-Mexico border?

Senator Arthur Pendleton Bagby: I would like to state that the Senate currently has plans to basically militarise our southern borders and ensure that a quota of at least 50 thousand servicemen is met, to counter the threat that the Mexican army brings to us in this case.



Senator Robert M.T. Hunter: As my fellow senator has just said, we plan on militarising the Texas-Mexico border, mainly due to the fact that, despite our lack of desire to go to war with Mexico, we have to prioritise our nation and hopefully future state's safety over diplomatic ties.

Senator John M. Clayton: I think personally, and speaking on behalf of the Whig party, we have always tried to advocate for peace, and seeing the recent updates given to us by our chairs and a US military general who actually visited our council the other day, we have realised that diplomacy is out of the window. And since we do not want war ourselves, the only viable solution right now is to withdraw our intent to annex Texas at all costs... Unfortunately, our efforts have been stymied by the Democratic bloc.

[Please note that at this point in the conference, several senators were called out of the Senate press conference due to an administrative error on the part of the Senate chairs. As such, it should be noted that some senators were unable to respond to the latter questions due to their absence.]

Qn4: Given the recent news of protests breaking out in several states due to the now tabled Senate bill proposing that US states pay increased taxes to aid Texas' economy. While it is true that the bill has been tabled, the ensuing outrage means that many states still have ongoing protests. How is the senate planning to address this issue?

Senator Arthur Pendleton Bagby: Regarding the protests that have erupted because of the resolution, I think that the Senate has listened to the population. We will seek the public's opinion and try to improve on our resolutions.

Qn5: In the wake of the resolution that was tabled earlier today, the president of Texas has expressed that the extent of Texas' indignation is so great that they may even consider approaching Britain for help instead. Considering that this threatens the United States' long held Monroe Doctrine, how do the members of the Senate plan to assuage Texas in the short term?

Senator Robert M.T. Hunter: We definitely do plan on sending troops to militarise the border to provide them a sense of security from the looming threat of the Mexican armies, which are also stationed at the border at the present moment. Secondly, we plan on trying to meet their requests as much as possible, which looking at the update, means that Texas wants full voting rights as soon as they are annexed along with taxation. We cannot do much besides provide them security in the short run, but we will do as much as we can.

Qn6: To those who support the industrialisation of Texas as a way to move it away from slavery, how would the Senate like to proceed if Texas was unwilling to participate in such matters, considering they are a mainly agricultural* state?

*(this refers to the fact that agriculture relies heavily on manpower, and in Texas' case, slave labour)

Senator Arthur Pendleton Bagby: I think the press delegate made an excellent point. I would just like to state that the Democrats do not support this plan as we find that Texas is a mainly agricultural state. Thus, we cannot undermine their livelihoods and destroy the economy by changing them into a more industrialised state. In the case of Texas not responding to the Whig Party's original ideas, what we will do is to proceed with the annexation as after all the Texians are Americans and we should respect their will to join America.

Senator Robert M.T. Hunter: I personally am against the idea of industrialising Texas for the same reasons. If Texas were to refuse the request, which I see as something we should be expecting, due to their huge dependency on labour for their agriculturist economy, it would not be something that would have any severe response due to the fact that it is merely a request more than a forceful option. Henceforth, Texas would still be annexed into the United States with the same decree it would be given if it were to industrialise in the first place. Qn7: It seems that many senators are amicable with the idea of a war with Mexico on the basis that the United States is practically assured victory. Have the implications of war regardless of victory, such as loss of American life and social instability, been accounted for?

Senator Robert M.T. Hunter: Frankly speaking, if we were to only look at the loss of lives that we would incur by going to war with Mexico, we fail to take into account the effects of what would happen if we didn't go to war with Mexico. Firstly, as expressed by their President, they would go to Britain for advice over us. Thus, we would lose Mexico's partnership and would have a strained relationship with them in the future. Second of all, Britain gaining a foothold in our continent is not only a social problem but also a huge economic crisis that would burden us even more in the future. And who's to say that Mexico still wouldn't go to war with Texas or us? In a sense we would still end up being involved in it one way or another just because it's in our continent

[TRANSCRIPT END]



Today's Feature

Interview with Lu Yuxuan, IOC Head Chair

Having previously attended three previous iterations of SMUN, Yuxuan is both honoured and excited to be serving as a head chairperson for SMUN 2021, and looks forward to seeing the interesting and thought-provoking perspectives brought by all delegates throughout the course of the conference. As an avid fan of sports (in particular the English Premier League), Yuxuan jumped at the opportunity to chair for the IOC, and hopes that he would find others in council who are genuinely enthused by the stories that sport can bring about, as well as the many differing economic and geopolitical interests behind it.



1. Hello, can you introduce yourself a little bit? What do you enjoy in chairing that you decided to apply?

Hi I'm Yuxuan, the Head Chair for the IOC. I'm currently serving the 1st year of NS. Other than that I'm a huge soccer fan, I love the stories that sports can offer, be it on or off the playing field, and I guess that's what first got me interested in chairing this council. Chairing itself is also interesting in how it gives one a different perspective on a council and diplomacy in general.



2. Is IOC a common council in Model UN or is it one of the "rare" ones? What are its mandates?

As quite an experienced delegate, I would be safe in saying that IOC is a "rare" council, with the last one that I know of being in 2016. The IOC's mandate is mainly to organise the Olympic Games and liaise with the various stakeholders that make the Games possible. It also governs Sports Governing Bodies, Athletes and fans regarding issues outside the games.

3. What issues in the council's agenda topics you find interesting to discuss?

Both topics in the council's agenda possess interesting avenues for discussion. The issue of the Olympic Host City is interesting in terms of its slightly different resolution format--multiple rounds on voting to eliminate candidate countries--while the issue on the Protection of Athletes provides delegates license to go in different and interesting directions during debate.

4. Do delegates participating in IOC has to be a fan of a particular sport?

Not necessarily (laughs). I do hope that delegates in the IOC come to better appreciate the intricacies and significance of sports though!

5. What sport in the Olympics do you follow the most?

Definitely football. Not Olympic football--a very different format from what we are used to-- but specifically the Premier League.

6. Who is your favorite athlete? What do you admire about them?

It's difficult to choose a particular athlete, but I tend to side with underdogs doing creative and radical things in attempts to get to the top. So one athlete I like very much is Koki Niwa, who is a very unorthodox table tennis player, and in the same vein I enjoy what I see of Nick Kyrios. Bringing it back to football, I do like Adama Traore from Wolves a lot, and manager-wise I'm a big fan of Marcelo Bielsa and Jose Mourinho--one for his radical approach, the other for his colorful personality.

7. How do you think sports/the Olympics relates to diplomacy? How can it help solve or make worse real-life global politics?

Bringing the issue to sports in general, we know the transformative impact sports can have on the world. In the case of rivalries or even the Football War, it can come to divide communities. Meanwhile, Ivory Coast's qualification for the World Cup in 2005 was a significant factor in ending the country's long running civil war. We also all remember how people of different nationalities all came out in support of Leicester's Premier League title. Sports and events such as the Olympics can even serve political means, as it did during the Italian, German and Soviet Olympics during the pre-World War II and Cold War period.



<u>Closing Ceremony: Dialogue with Ambassador</u> <u>Ong Keng Yong, Mr. Bilahari Kausikan, and</u> <u>Dr. Bilveer Singh</u>

By Adiba, Press Editor

SINGAPORE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2021 CLOSING CEREMONY

In Singapore Model United Nations (SMUN) 2021 delegates have spent the past four days negotiating and discussing foreign affairs topics amongst themselves. Aptly, the closing ceremony hosted a Dialogue Session: Paradigm Shifts in Singapore's Foreign Relations between **Ambassador Ong Keng Yong**, Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University; **Mr. Bilahari Kausikan**, Chairman of the Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore; and **Dr. Bilveer Singh**, Associate Professor at the Department of Political Sciences, National University of Singapore. This interactive discussion is hosted by SMUN Secretary-General herself Ms. Valen Yo.

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CEE

MCEE_Jason Ong



This discussion commenced with a question posed by Ms. Valen Yo regarding potential challenges for Singapore's foreign policy, especially considering the recent Covid-19 developments. The dialogue continued to discuss potential challenges for Singapore in the following years.

Ambassador Ong brought up the importance of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in regional progress through diplomacy. Mr. Kausikan also reminded the participants of the importance of prioritizing national interests in the international arena above "playing sides".

Panelists highlighted the necessity of creating a favorable atmosphere both domestically and between countries in order to advance international cooperation.

Before concluding the dialogue, the panelists reminded participants of the importance of fostering greater national unity amid rising politicisation of foreign policy topics. Ambassador Ong recommended the teaching of international relations to be extended to younger students in order to develop a more well-informed populace.



Awards Ceremony

By Jaden Ong, Press Editor

After the riveting dialogue by the Ambassadors Ong Keng Yong and Bilahari Kausikan and by Professor Bilveer Singh, the SMUN awards ceremony, unfortunately, began.

DISEC

Jia Yi begins with a "Hi mike test" before admonishing her council as "snakes".

- Best Position Paper Australia
- Verbal Commendations Libya and Iran
- Honorable Mention France
- Outstanding Delegate USA

SOCHUM

Ever committed to RoP, John uses the only time he has with his delegates after his committee to remind them of four RoP procedures.

- Best Position Paper Switzerland
- Verbal Commendations France, Singapore, Somalia, and USA
- Honorable Mention Iraq, Australia
- Outstanding Delegate Central African Republic

ICAO

Jason decides to thank his fellow chairs, the secretariat, and delegates as if he were the one winning the award. He also thanks himself.

- Best Position Paper USA
- Verbal Commendation Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Italy, Australia
- Honorable Mention USA
- Outstanding Delegate India
- Best Delegate South Korea

IOC

The IOC head chair does not introduce his name and is not introduced by name.

- Best Position Paper Italy
- D Verbal Commendation China, Rwanda, Pakistan, Sweden, India
- Honorable Mention USA
- Outstanding Delegate Indonesia
- Best Delegate Italy

OPEC

Haiyi thanks the OPEC delegates, repeatedly.

- Best Position Paper Brunei
- Verbal Commendation Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, South Sudan, Angola
- Honorable Mention USA
- Outstanding Delegate Gabon
- Best Delegate Kuwait

USS

Heqin compares the Senate to the rebirth of a phoenix. He also casually mentions how no resolution was passed in four days.

- Best Position Paper James F. Simmons
- Verbal Commendation Jabez W. Huntington, Arthur Pendleton Bagby, James Pearce, Stephen A. Douglas, John M. Clayton
- Honorable Mention Arthur Pendleton Bagby
- Outstanding Delegate Reverdy Johnson, Ambrose H. Sevier

AU

Peter does that stupid "delegates delegates delegates" that everyone hates.

- Best Position Paper Ghana
- U Verbal Commendation Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Kenya
- Honorable Mention Seychelles
- Outstanding Delegate Gabon

ASEAN

Ying Qi nobly reflects on her pitfalls in RoP knowledge in describing the ASEAN resolutions.

- Best Position Paper Cambodia
- Verbal Commendation Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos
- Honorable Mention Philippines
- Best Delegate China

UNSC

In addressing committee performance, Beihua focusses on how much they've improved and deflects the awards presentation to his co-chair, Bernard, who gives no best delegate award.

- Best Position Paper Vietnam
- Verbal Commendation Russia
- Honorable Mention Ethiopia
- Outstanding Delegate United States

CRISIS

John, on behalf of Mikhail Gorbachev, praises his front room and backroom team on how fun they've made crisis. (Especially himself as crisis director.)

- Verbal Commendation USSR Procurator-General Alexander Rekunkov, Vice Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR - Vasili Vasiliyevich Kuznetsov, Chairman of the Presidium of the Russian SFSR - Vladimir Orlov, Minister for Interior Affairs - Vitaly Vasiliyevich Fedorchuk
- Honorable Mention Chairman of the Presidium Andrei Gromyko
- Outstanding Delegate Second Secretary of the Communist Party Yegor Ligachyov
- Best Delegate Chief of the KGB Second Directorate (Counter) Ivan Markelov

Press Corps

With eloquence and poise, wit and humour, Miju, our wonderful editor-in-chief, gives a wonderful speech espousing both the quality and quantity of press submissions and humbly thanks the other committees for their development of his wonderful press delegates.

- Best Press Dossier New-York Daily Tribune
- Verbal Commendation AP, Pravda
- Honorable Mention SABC
- Oustanding Press Agency BeritaSatu Media Holdings
- Best Press Agency New-York Daily Tribune

SMUN vs Dragon

An expository in surrealism by Press Editor Jaden Ong

It was a very sweltering hot morning. The sun bore down on the trees like a mother bear bears down upon her bear cubs. The rain was far away, as far as the Andromeda galaxy, and it was SMUN time!

We were all in the big Zoom room, playing Among Us with the guest-of-honor, Harry Lee Kuan Yew. (He was being sussy.) Our DSG Acads, BK Sriram, said that he saw Lee Kuan Yew venting. We all voted for Lee Kuan Yew with an infinite and hyperbolic hope that lied only on the promises of one man—an educated man so different from the rest of them.

During the emergency meeting, Lee Kuan Yew with his really good oratory and stuff spoke very convincingly, which actually made us withdraw our votes and vote for Sriram instead. At this point, Sriram was panicking and using all of his neuronal connections to think of a way out of what seemed to be a really tough and difficult situation.

Sriram began speaking, "I am not the impostor. In fact, I only said Lee Kuan Yew was the impostor because the real impostor threatened to kill me if I did not accuse Lee Kuan Yew. All of you have taught me the meaning of justice and the law. I know now that I shouldn't have given in to the frivolous threats of one man, a man that hides behind a facade and does not dare reveal who he actually is. The real impostor is......."

Suddenly, Sriram's audio and video feed suddenly cut off. We were really scared at what was going on. And also we wanted to know who the impostor was.

As you know from the title, it was a dragon who was attacking BK Sriram, who lived in the West of Singapore. She (the dragon was a girl) had shot a fire ball straight into Sriram's house. With his dying, charred breath, Sriram initiated the Avengers Assemble



clause in the Rules of Procedure (RoP), giving all delegates of all committees amazing superpowers to fight evil if need be.

However, the RoP states that committees can only activate themselves one at a time, by their Dais' discretion. K-Ron, ever vigilant, activated first his Crisis committee, giving them each awesome superpowers of super-vision and heaty breath.

Immediately, K-Ron flew (they also all had flight) to meet the other Crisis delegates and staff at where the dragon was. K-Ron, the strategist, immediately started a ChairMUN session on his laptop, and started asking the Crisis dels who wanted to fight the dragon first. The delegate of Vitaly Fedorchuck volunteered first. K-Ron approved him, and he flew straight into the dragon's mouth and died.

One by one, the delegates volunteered; K-Ron approved them; and each of them died. K-Ron, in one final burst of stupendous and selfless energy, flew into the mouth of the dragon and used his heaty breath in an attempt to destroy the dragon's fire part. However, it did not work, and he died also.

Next, it was US Senate. Immediately, Heqin and his senators went into action. Heqin, too, started a ChairMUN session, and proceeded first with a role-call vote. Then, he began opening speeches. After four days of debate, the senate did not resolve to fight the dragon and all senators were burned to death.

Next, the IOC came. The Chinese delegate quickly took the lead, saying that their infrastructure and economy were the most suited to defeat the big and pretty strong dragon. The Turkish delegate rebutted, "[REDACTED UPON REQUEST BY THE [REDACTED].]" In the end, the delegates played a round of soccer to decide who would fight the dragon. Portugal won with their star-striker Ronaldo!!!!

Next, UNSC. They originally resolved to fight the dragon, but the USA vetoed the decision. They died too. OPEC put up a noble fight too, but died. (Same with SOCHUM, ASEAN, and AU.)

It was up to DISEC now. Unfortunately, the delegates did not have any weapons to fight the dragon because they had previously passed a resolution on disarmament. All of them died.

But wait, the secretariat was still on standby! (Except Sriram.) Disguised as GrabFood drivers, secretariat members delivered a poisonous meal to the dragon, but the dragon was working from home (WFH) and requested for the food to be placed outside the door. Also the dragon ate the secre.

And so, the dragon was left unstoppable.

It rampaged through all of Singapore, destroying all the universities and factories and then it went to the town where it destroyed the towers and also the parliament and the supreme court (the ufo one) and also it went to ikea around there and also destroyed the ufo water towers there also.

From the barren earth rose gray-skinned thin giants, eight feet tall and each with the strength of twelve-thousand men. They tore through what was left of the land, eating the remaining survivors and bringing the children back into their underworld. They rampaged for seven days and seven nights, and on the eighth day they returned, for they knew that salvation had come.

The dragon had made a nest where the old garden used to be, and great green eggs each twelve feet tall lay beneath her furnace of her belly. She slept as she warmed her children, but when the cock crowed she opened her eyes to see an army, twenty-five strong, each holding a quill and parchment. Leading them was Miju, and as the dragon spewed forth magma and ice he unrolled a scroll of human skin, and recited a spell of magickal protection. The dragon knew that she was in the presence of a superior being. She had no choice now and commanded the lightning and earth to fall on her, bringing down the Press Corps and her—but protecting her children. Miju had foreseen this, for he had already read the dragon's book and knew it would come to an end. In parchment he began to write, and when he was done the dragon shed a tear for she knew, too, that her end was nigh.

"Please," she whispered. Miju opened his mouth and recited an epic that atomised the dragon, scrambled her eggs, restored Singapore to its original state.

I know because I was there. This is a true story. I wrote the minor spell to remove the memory of your death. But with magic, there is always a price to pay. Miju's spell was so powerful that it consumed him with it. LIKE and SHARE this story with two friends if you want to bring Miju back. IGNORE if you don't



Editor's Diary: A Tribute to SMUN Press

Dear Delegates,

As I write this, I feel that strange sense of melancholy and nostalgia that one gets when any MUN conference ends. While my time as a press chair was hectic and chaotic, it was equally as fulfilling and quickly moved to become one of my favourite conferences ever. This is purely because of what press stands for and my experience here - call me biased, but I have to say that press is one of the better councils in MUN. Here, there's not a lot of emphasis on pieces of paper and bragging rights - be it BD, OD, HM or even VC. Here, it is the purest showcase of what MUN conferences truly aim to do: empower youths and give them opportunities to consider stances, possibly different from theirs, and to stick and use these stances to anchor their arguments as they worked together to write on these, in longform or in the forms of memes and infographics. More than anything, it allowed delegates the opportunity to make friends and bond with people from and not from their councils. They give importance to communication and diplomacy, purely aiming to do their best to report the happenings in council and their agency's take on it. Thus, they fulfil the aims and values which were kept in mind when MUN conferences were created.

My intention is not to praise the Press Corps, neither is it to diss other councils. It is purely my way of pleading with you to reconsider your aims in MUN - awards are incredibly gratifying but they are not as fulfilling as the friendships you can forge and the positive memories you can create.

Signing Off, **Keerthi**

Dear Delegates,

Press is a really special committee. We love what we do, and that's more than what the other delegates can say.

They like to talk about winning—how many awards they've won, as though their BD was anything more than a slip of paper and a gavel, a decision made by a pol sci undergrad, maybe a secondary school student. They talk about snakes, snitches, and snobs, all the deplorable people they meet and how they want to retire. Always, they talk about retirement.

They talk about stopping so often—every conference they go to—that you wonder why they continue. And they go on, to be chairs, directors, DSGs, and sec-gens. Still, they talk about retirement, how stressful it is, how they're so glad they can finally stop. And they go on. When they're too old and have to go, they talk about it still, still in terms of awards, roles, snakes.

They like to talk about everything except having fun. Of course if you ask them then they'll say how they love politics, debate, the friends, the complexity, the diplomacy. These are the things that keep them going, they say.

But the politics isn't that interesting—what one committee says about the cost of one specific commodity in one small region of central Asia—and the debate's with secondary school kids so many years younger than you. At the end of a conference, you feel bad because you didn't win the BD and you didn't make a single friend and you feel like you've been cut. The committee and motivation might not be real, but the feelings of sorrow that you have are. You're exhausted and you wonder why you did this again. Again, again, again.

Do you remember your first MUN? Before it was about BDs, before the overjustification effect kicked in and you only cared about what other people thought about you. You enjoyed it so much, and you said you'd come back. You felt good at the end of it. No back-stabbing or politicking or gaslighting. That was closer to the real UN than what the advanced comms do. Humility, diplomacy, and compromise working towards the singular goal of doing good. Knowing that you represent a country and doing your best to be nuanced and play a role. Working with others.

You loved it, but your love became greed and pride. Now you were into MUN, the blazers and black blouses and high heels and dress shoes—pretending to be adults, practicing a form of diplomacy that would get your country nothing but sanctions.

You're exhausted. You join press, the one you haven't tried, but it's different. There's none of that caustic social warfare, and if you genuinely liked the politics you'd savour the opportunity to write on it in longform. Your chairs are nice and they all talk to you, and you have such a freedom to do what you really want.

You make things—memes and articles that move your delegates and make them laugh. You talk to delegates one-on-one without their guard being raised, without them trying to manipulate you. You feel good at the end of it. You enjoyed it. You say that you'll come back.

And you do. You come back and it's the same thing but you write better and you win an award and you make a genuine friend this time and you wonder, "Hey, maybe I won't retire after all. This isn't bad at all, I really do have a lot of fun in press."

Signing Off, **Jaden**

Dear Delegates,

Over the past 4 days, you have been sitting ominously in the zoom rooms of other committees, snickered over your dank memes, sent out your straw polls, and worked arduously on your articles. For that, I would like to say, thank you, for it is you who keep us going.

As you were busy **pitching** news ideas, **producing** infographics and interviews, **publishing** news reports, and **promoting** your ideas online, I must say, I was very **proud** of all of you for putting in the hard work. This is one of the most promising bunch of press delegates I have ever seen, or perceived.

But really, I hope that you have improved in your listening and writing skills, and developed a deeper appreciation on the roles of news media, over the short span of a few days.

Signing off, **Miju**



Quotables

"The delegate of Argentina loves tea. Green tea, Oolong tea, Bubble tea, but most importantly, Equali-tea."

- Argentina, IOC

"It's like using a sword to defeat Lord Voldemort. It is difficult. No, impossible."

- **Germany, IOC** (On how education could not successfully combat physical abuse of athletes.)

"Above sexpionage? Doubt."

- Marshal of satellite states, Crisis

"Delegates, delegates, the 'C' in OPEC stands for 'clownery'."

- Chair, OPEC

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