

To the Editor:

To most of us the United Nations is an institution surrounded by mystery. We know nothing about it, nor do we care to learn. The United Nations is such a sophisticated thing located in such a large international center (New York) that we cannot come to terms with it.

Last April, seventeen U.P.E.I. students were afforded an opportunity to visit the United Nations and to participate in a model United Nations Conference. Each student who went agreed it was a profoundly enriching experience, and many claimed it was the most rewarding and enjoyable part of their university experience

It all began when U.P.E.I. recieved an invitation to participate in a annual NMUN conference. An eager and very dedicated professor, Gary Webster, gathered recruits and began mobilizing for the task ahead. A special course was arranged in which the group studied the United Nations and the simulation. They looked at what the U.N. is, why it was formed, and how it operates, the role and behavior of Ambassadors, and the successes and failures of the organization. After this, each student tackled a committee assignment as a member of the Ethiopia or Zimbabwe delegation. A policy paper in which each student stated the problems and concerns facing his or her own country's delegation on the committee, had to be sent to the Model United Nations Secretariat. This was successful indeed. The Ethiopian delegation at the United Nations, after having examined the policy papers, said that the write ups could have been issued as an official document from their office.

While alot of preparation went into the simulation, it was during the week in New York that the delegates really learned what the U.N. was and how it worke. They learned how to draft and prepare resolutions, how to lobby, how to bargain and negotiate and how to speak with ease in front of col-

leagues from some of the world's better universities such as Harvard, Duke and Brown. Model United Nations officials continually evaluated each student's knowledge of, and ability to handle U.N. procedure and their ability to assume their assigned county's nationality. U.N. officials as well as representatives from America's major universities were impressed with U.P.E.I. performance. The invitation ti participate in the model U.N. in New York again this year , as well as several invitations to participate in model U.N. conferences at Harvard and other leading American universities testify to U.P.E.I.'s great success. Along with the university's great success, each student felt he or she had really accomplished something great. They had taken on the U.N. putting aside Canadian biases and prejudices, as they had assumed the attitudes of African Diplomats. The result was a remarkable growth of perspective on current international affairs.

The N.M.U.N. ice has been broken for U.P.E.I. Thanks to the pioneering of last year's group, many U.N.pamphlets have been gathered st the Robertson Library, a special training session for th simulation is in operation, and an international reputation has been built. It is up to U.P.E.I.'s future students, faculty and administration to see that other students are afforded furthe such major learning experiences, as that U.P.E.I. continues to be represented abroad, in the capitol of the world. U.P.E.I. should not rest on past laurels, but should go on to even greater achievements in the realm of international diplomacy.



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