

## First Political Plan is too Much for GA

The noise of shuffling papers, excited whispers, and clicking shoes echoed throughout the Hett Auditorium as delegates filed in for the General Assembly Preliminary on the third day of the McKendree University Model United Nations Invitational. After the chair explained the regulations of GA, the body commenced with the topic of First Political. Selecting from resolutions passed on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, First Political's chair chose to discuss resolution 1<sup>st</sup>/V/2.

This resolution, covering the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, had ignited a large debate among the delegates in First Political on Wednesday morning. The delegate from Azerbaijan spoke first in defense of his resolution, describing how Armenians unlawfully seized Azerbaijani lands, displacing thousands, and urged the UN to moderate peace talks between the two nations.

Against the resolution, a delegate from Guatemala argued that with the "obvious bias" in the resolution and the lack of a delegate from Armenia in attendance, the body cannot rightfully pass this resolution. She articulated, "We need both sides of the story." In subsequent pro speeches

delivered by delegates from Cuba and Uganda, both expressed the difficulty of remaining unbiased when writing about your own country and they urged the body to keep this in mind when voting. The delegate from Uganda voiced that this resolution's goal is to "put the refugees back in their homes" and reach peace through diplomacy.

A delegate from South Africa stressed in his con speech that peace talks between these two nations failed before, and would most likely be unsuccessful if attempted again. To conclude the debate, a delegate from Panama stated "without any viewpoint other than Azerbaijan's, we cannot pass this resolution." When questioned, he also agreed that the resolution "does not do much to solve this conflict."

With the speaker list exhausted, the committee moved to a vote. Resolution 1<sup>st</sup>/V/2 failed to pass after a vote of nineteen for, thirty-nine against, and one abstention. This concluded the topic of First Political and the delegates efficiently moved on to discuss Third Social.

Rachel Szopa