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If they requested us to publish another issue of the Young Ambassador, our answer would include a pinch of hesitation.



We'd remember the hard times when we were short of USB devices. breath and motivation though we had 5 computers at total for the use of 3 persons. We'd recall them as bleak days of fatigue and unending hours hopelessness which floated dangerously in consciences as the terrorizing question "Will we make it?" lingered in our minds. If we set on a journey of flashbacks, we can't help ourselves from thinking the moments of strain and ultimate displeasure when we failed to find the keys of the PDC room, discovered that we had run out of packs of Kisses Chocolate that Gökcan had brought and noticed that we still lacked in some articles. Particularly, we saw Hazal having a seizure each time something went wrong with the format of the pages, Gamze with her wet hair all over the place and Gökcan flinching angrily as he read the phrase "A dream came true!" which he truly and wholly hates in the articles for numerous times. Right now, you should be wondering "Wasn't there any cherishable memories from the weeks of work you have endured tirelessly?" Let's see...

We still treasure the second of joy when we accidentally created the most

mind-blowing cover. How we swayed with the melancholic and superb songs of our favourite band Travis. How we managed to talk about nothing but Al Pacino for hours and how Hazal decorated the façade of the room with her true love for him. Sometimes our brains were blundered with confusion, thus we made up words like "unendless" and "underly-estimable" as we laughed along.

We laughed alone.

People passed by the glass façade glaring at us as if saying "How come you work the last week?" We looked into each other's eyes and saw the glitter of hardwork, hope, laughter and the innate thought that always whispered to us the words "You're going to make it, everything's going to be all right.". Among all our mishaps, unfortunate events, the funny incidents and Hazal's playlists, we were happy to be in that room, only three of us, joking to each other.

We laughed alone. But it was okay.

If they requested us to publish another issue of the Young Ambassador, our answer would include a pinch of hesitation. However, a few seconds later, we'd surely answer "Yes, yeah, absobloominutely and certainly we're in for the thrill!"



The memories I have of the past three years are generally the ones which make me laugh my socks off, even though on numerous occasions I felt like punching someone in the face. In fact one time, I really did punch someone in the face, hitting Irem and Orçun at the same time for not listening to me while shooting a video for the Club. Another vivid image in my head is taking the floor and starting to talk English in a very French fashion, which makes everyone laugh so hard at the accent that noone really understands what I'm talking about.



There were times that I felt incredibly lost, like the time in Paris, when Irem and I couldn't find the hotel and I kept making statements like "If we don't get to our room soon, it's not gonna be only the rain wetting my pants." Or the time we were lost in the bungalow park in the Hague (again with Irem) and we circled the same pathway 100 times when all we had to do was turn left instead of going straight. But we somehow always managed to find our destinations even if took a lot longer than it's supposed to.

Looking back, I think that this is the essence of what I learnt in my years of debating. Conferences are always a mix of emotions, of a little ambition, happiness,

triumph, failure... and it is always extremely easy to get lost. But you can always find out what you should do next, leaning on your old friends and being nice to the ones you just made. I thank everyone who was with me during this journey. I love you all.

Bahar "El Ğhad" Cila

was at 9th grade when Burcek Hoca kept insisting on me to join Debate Club. I can clearly remember my first Sunday with team. It was horrible, I just did not know what to do; people were talking about what action to be taken for Iran's Uranium Enrichment or the Reform of the Security Council...Then I told myself: OK Ezgi, this is enough for you; you should not be a member of this club. Later, I found mvself at MUNESCO Conference, at Education Committee being one of the most participants. Before MUNESCO I was not a hundred percent sure, but after that I was totally sure that I should be a member of the team and attend to more conferences.



We spent Sundays & Wednesday evenings finding solutions for and debating on critical issues of the world with our dear chaperon Zeynep Ulus.

Next year was quite different than first year because we were not juniors anymore. We were told tohelp newcomers whenever they feel desperate and hopeless about MUN. And my 3rd year was completely different from the previous years. I have attended to two conferences and conferences in Turkey. PAMUN &YMUN were incredible. I have learned many things from them in terms of diplomacy and spent magnificent time with my fellow friends. My first-last MUN conference was MUNESCO, last one was bitter because you spent three years with your friends in this road and you say that I will quit.



To sum up, MUN is a greatest way of improving your skills: your English, knowledge about world affairs and lastly, mainly friendship. When I look back, I feel fantastic because of being a member of this team. I had unforgettable memories... I would like to thank Burcek Hoca for insisting me to join this club.

Ezgi Ergin

One of best decisions in my life was joining PDC. (Actually back in those days when I joined the club it was simply Debate Club but nevermind). I still remember the first after-school meeting I had, Zeynep Abla pointing at me and saying "Pink Panther you are recognized" (thanks to my lovely t-shirt), me mumbling some things on what they called the "floor" with shaking knees. Soon enough, I was one of "them".



The first conferences came along with stressful nights and resolutions that were hard to write. But with time, speech-making became natural, procedures were daily routines and conferences were part of life. I believe our year was pretty important because we got to experience a very important transition and we did not only attend conferences but we also helped a great deal in re-building the club and taking it as far as organizing GYS.



One of the most notable aspects my high school life has been PDC, nearly half of my time passed working PDC, thinking PDC and talking about PDC. And now, being on the verge

moving on, it is incredibly hard to describe my feelings. Apart from the sadness and emptiness I feel everytime I look at the PDC Room that has been a home for us for 3 years, I feel thankful for all the friendships I made, all the great moments we had together and for all the lessons I learned. I now yield the floor back to the remaining ones. Thank you for everything.

İrem Tümer

From the President:

It all started nearly one year ago. We were sitting in the debate room (probably one of our most favorite locations to hang out whenever we get permission from our teachers) as usual, chatting about the club, conferences or all the cool people we met somewhere along the way. Suddenly we were struck with the brilliant idea of having a conference of our own. I have to admit that the way we started to work was quite upside down, soon enough we were sipping our coffees and talking about what to serve for lunch. We immediately started to work on the programme, amid the fact that even our teachers didn't know we had a conference.



Time passed by... Most of the people who were there at the very beginning were gone. What was left was a draft of what we wanted, and me going to school several times to meet lots of grown-ups to arrange everything from transportation to hotels. The following months were full of replying to e-mails, preparing forms, talking to Emine and Hacer Hoca almost every break. As the time for GYS approached, we got more and more excited. On a miraculous Wednesday just before GYS, the hands-on part started. We were there, all the orgas and some other people, trying to arrange all the material, going to the photocopy center a hundred times, working on the coffee break schedules. It seemed as if we were adults trying to organize a business meeting. Despite all the failures of communication with the men at the copying place, having to talk to the pizzaman and running in Kızılay at the same time, all the late-night phone calls and missing badges, in the end we were there all dressed up, sitting in the lobby of Neva Palas with these words echoing in our minds: "All these people are here for us...we did it...we did it."

After a year of hardwork and those extremely enjoyable 5 days, I have to admit that GYS was one of the most valuable experiences I ever had- and I believe that is true for all of us-. Looking back, I do not only feel proud to see the outcome, but what delights me the most is that feeling of "WE" that we managed to have. In the end, all I can say is "We did it and it was great!"

Ìrem TÜMER (Chair of Special Committee On Middle East)

From the Vice-Presidents:

I didn't realize that the conference was really happening until I saw a couple of Slovakian people chatting outside Neva Palas as I was approaching the entrance hall. They had finally arrived and they were there for us. At that moment I felt a rush that I had not felt at all during the hours I spent in the Debate Room, among all the cardboards, folders, badges. It was the rush of finally making what we were working on non-stop for the past six months real. It was at that moment that all the running around, yelling at each other, being almost-in-tears at times, and laughing like crazy over the silliest things because we had been stuck in the same room for four hours straight trying to get

names right was worth it. It was relief, because we had really pulled it off. At the same time, it was excitement because this was just the beginning. We had five more days to go through, making sure that everything ran smoothly.





Those five days passed by too quickly. I think that we all had the time of our lives, and none of us wanted the conference to end. All of a sudden, our eyes were filled with tears as we watched the slideshow the journo team prepared with the conference photos. I will always remember GYS as our greatest and accomplishment one of the experiences in my life that I wouldn't give up for anything.

> Bahar Cila (Chair of the Environment Committee)

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This year, it was a first to both PDC and the school because it was our first time experiencing the difficulties of hosting a conference our own! GYS was nothing but a dream for us two years ago. Then it started becoming something more real after many conferences we'd attended to and seeing all the organizational mistakes. Of course, it would never have been the same seeing the mistakes and being able to not do them yourself. However, the first GYS was a really successful first conference. I was happy tobecome a part of the preparation process as a Vice President and couldn't think of a better team. We had no problems whatsoever among each other in the Presidency. Perhaps that was the main reason GYS is no longer a dream. But of course GYS wouldn't have happened if it weren't for Emine Hoca and Hacer Hoca. I think both Organizational Team and Chairs Team couldn't be better

when it came to making decisions. Everyone worked really hard when it came to GYS, even the ones we never expected...

Last but not least, I want to thank my co-Chair Gokcan.He helped me during the hard decisions and controlling the committee. He showed them the important things they missed and even went outside and got research results whenever they needed. He knew when I thought something was wrong, he didn't have to ask me... I hope he'll have even a better co-Chair next year. Lastly, I hope... No I'm sure GYS will become one of the most known simulation conferences and then again, thanks everyone who made it possible for GYS to happen...

Alca Kara (Chair of the Human Rights Committee



From the Chairs:

I am a member of debate club for three years. I have participated in many conferences with the support of our school. However, participating in a conference that is organized by us in our a completely school was different experience. All of us worked two times harder and was exhausted at the end but this tiredness was very sweet and we all miss that unforgettable one week. I had enormous fun during the committee work. We have delegates from different countries and most of them were very dedicated. I, once again, have seen that, despite people speaking different language and thinking differently, with the help of international conferences like ours, we can all learn to communicate

and understand each other. I believe we all taught and learned so much from our experiences. The issue of our committee was terrorism. It was important for foreign delegates to debate terrorism with the citizens of a country that is effected so deeply by terrorism. To sum up I am very happy to be able help the young diplomats of the future and given the opportunity to be one of them.

Zeynep Azizoğlu (Chair of the Defence and Security Committee



Nearly 150 kids from different countries and backgrounds...All seeing each other for the very first time and are made to be the "drunken bottle" in the middle of a circle or pass the orange from one neck to the other...It was truly, madly, deeply GYS! It was what we had been dreaming of since our first hearing the idea of organizing a conference in our school.

It was a hard task though. A very hard one. Dealing with all those stuff that were concerned with the sake of the attendees of the confrence or conducting the debates during the sessions were the reasons why we fainted at nights rather than sleeping. We found it incredibly exhausting to host a conference. Yet, it was quite amazing and entertaining to be involved in such an organization. As the chairperson of the Social **Affairs** Committee, I was pleased with the members of my committee as they were willing to play traditional teambuilding games, dance or Super Poke(!) the other participants. This entertainment process sometimes turned out to be harsh torments towards the chairs. For instance, I was forced to present a belly dance show and my cochair Beril was taped in the Kolej Sokağı by Mr.No (identity to be concealed). Meanwhile, we had fruitful debates in the first two committee sessions, though the only resolution we submitted failed in the General Assembly because of some "blue card" issues.

Hazal Saral (Chair of the Social Affairs Committee)

From the Head of Organizational Team:

I think I should start with my own feelings about GYS, the most enjoyable and unforgettable conference that I have ever attended. At first, in the registration, when I saw all the participants taking their badges, asking questions about the conference to me, I feel the enthusiasm and I saw something exciting in their eyes. That was the time that made me say "this conference will be perfect ..."



In the closing ceremony I saw that I was not mistaken with my thoughts in the registration. Everyone seemed to be satisfied with the conference, gloomy by the unforgettable memories and puzzled by the unbelievable friendships that they had made in such a short time! We as the organization team had done our best in order to complete conference with fewer malfunctions as possible. The first thing that we did was deciding on the duties of

each Orga. We categorized the positions that should be taken like; transportation, accommodation, sponsorship, etc. and every organizer took one. During the conference I saw every organizer doing their duties with grave enthusiasm and I appreciate every organizer's sense of responsibility. There were times that we came face to face with the problems which could have effect the ongoing conference sessions but we knew how to eliminate those problems and we cope with them cooperatively. Being a head organizer was an unforgettable position that I was proud of being given...

Burcu Uğuz



From the Head of Press:

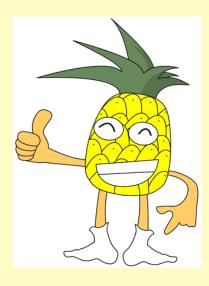
GYS 2008 remained wonderful dream, in which the hopes, expectations and incomputable efforts of all the participants stayed silently, until the very day, 6th of May appeared and all these dreams began coming true. I can still remember the nervous expressions on our faces when we had nothing to do but wait for our guests in the morning of that very day. With a sweet anxiety and pure excitement, we were finally able to elate ourselves with the pleasurable consequences of our strain and effort.

I participated in the conference in the position of Editorial Assistant. We published a daily newspaper during the conference with a journo team consisting of twelve journalists, all of which were incredibly smart, enjoyable and ambitious. Naming the paper as "The Daily Pineapple", we talked about the conference, committee works and other not-so-related events and situations in each issue. Our mission was simply to make people get into the atmosphere more quickly and to leave them a rememberance of what they experienced and gained while they were far away from their homes, trying to be the voice of the youth.



I must admit that we had to work so hard to complete the issue in one tiny day, with minimum error and maximum efficiency (!). I have never been in such a rush in my entire life before but still, I may sacrifice anything to experience wonderful days once more, regardless of the pain and suffering (!) we've been through. This conference is one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life, which seems to remain so for a very long time. We have been through many challenges and obstacles during the preparation process but when I look back right now and remember all that joy and success the conference brought us in the end, without any hesitation I can say that everything was worth it. I deeply *pineapple* GYS!

Gamze Karaca



Euro Asia MUN conference was both my first experience and the first conference of the year. It was organized in TOBB University and our school was the only high school there. Even though we were inexperienced when compared to the university students, we didn't hesitate to participate in this wonderful conference. Before we started to debate on our topics we had a crash course on how the debate was going to be. We learned the UN procedures and got used to writing a resolution. In this sense, EuroAsia MUN was a great experience for us, especially for the 9th Grade students.



Personally, in the conference, I was too shy to stand up to express my opinions but as the days went by I understood that there was nothing to be afraid of. The more experienced attendants, who were mostly International Relations or Political Science students willingly helped everyone. We had break times for 10 minutes in every 2 hours. It was a well thought and neatly prepared conference that lasted 4 days and will take place next year.



Beside the debating sessions and the lectures of this mock conference, we had a great time altogether as the members of the Politics and Diplomacy Club. Although this was our first conference we were attending together and were not used to each other in deed, we found mid-points to enjoy the conference and tasted the true friendship. Our lunches in the Armada shopping mall and our short visits to the province nearby provided inestimable entertainment for us (not to forget the hilarious (!) little incident, Burcu, Gamze and Gökcan went through after the last session ended, which made us all roll off to floor laughing!). On the other hand, as all MUN conferences bring by, we got to establish great friendships with the other participants. As far as I am concerned, I am looking forward to the upcoming session of EuroAsiaMUN.



ParisMUN

An incredible night at Le Coq, one of the most elegant and stylish restaurants of Paris; the city of love and passion... Endless sidewalks of the famous boulevard, Champs-Elyseé... An interesting exploration of a Turkish quarter, Strazburg and our pitiful pancake buffet in front of the legendary Eiffel Tower...

Those memories are all from our three-day-long trip to France as the MUN team of our school. As the American School of Paris was hosting the second most outstanding MUN conference of the world (right after the famous The Hague Model United Nations), we decided to attend the conference with a delegation, consisting of Alca Kara, Demirkazık, Ezgi Ergin, Zeynep Azizoğlu and me. Our precious director Emine Hoca was the one who conducted the sequence of our trip and all other related issues, concerning our performance in the conference.



ParisMUN was remarkably the most crowded and most well-known international conference I had ever attended. With about 700 delegates and officials, it may be considered as a huge activity. It took place in the Paris headquarters of the United Nations and Cultural Educational, Scientific Organization (UNESCO). In different committees, including the Disarmament, Human Rights, Environment, Political and Special Conference Committees, we debated on various issues; such as the

globalization and its impacts, sex tourism, water conflicts and alternative energy resources... We contributed to the debates by submitting our clauses to form a proper resolution and directing important points of information and delivering speeches. As it was quite crowded in committees (considering that my committee, Human Rights consisted of 180 delegates!), it was fairly hard to have our voices heard and make others aware that we were also good participants.



Indeed, what made PAMUN unique and remarkable as a United Nations simulation was that it was the first MUN conference in which we had come across with a crisis situation. In the 2007 session of the conference, different crisis topics were distributed to the committees. These included scenarios about the 2008 Olympic Games, Turkey's intervention to the northern Iraq and the rights of the indigenous people in Ecuador.



I'm sort of sensing your curiosity about what we did in this wonderful and impressive city apart from what we did as delegates in PAMUN. Well, it would be a huge lie if I said we could not fancy, since we fairly had no moments that passed without a laughter.



In the historic streets and admirable cafés, we got closer to each other and enjoyed ourselves pretty much. Our small, cute hotel, the late night girl parties in our slave room where Ezgi (aka Izaura) stayed and the Fareastern maids with whom we could not communicate with at all... I'm hundred percent sure that none of us will ever forget our nights at Champs-Elyseés, where we explored the gigantic stationery called "Virgin Megastore", ate the most delicious banana pancakes ever and where we were caught under a heavy hail right after we spent about three hours in the Disney Store. And the "Social Event" of the conference, of course, which took place in an aquarium called "Cineaqua", where we were made to watch arty movies in Russian

and also observed the weirdest fish ever. On the other hand, personally, I am fully loaded with the memories of the evenings in front of the terrific Eiffel Tower, where we were thought to be terrorists (as Ezgi, Alca and I looked like Arabic terrorists, kidnapping two Brits; Zeynep and Gökcan, both blue eyed and fair-haired)... How can I ever forget how we were caught under an eye investigation by an official, carrying a rifle in his belt and preventing the taxi drivers from taking us into their cars?



Anyways, Paris, as being my first time abroad for an MUN conference, was a great success and pleasure. The friendships I strengthened with my teammates and the sophisticated places I saw are only two outstanding achievements of this unforgetable experience. Looking forward to the repetitions of it, as well...



procedures. fevered İstanbul Gençlik Forumı

When the sound of the applause in the end of İGF was heard, a sudden change appeared on everyone's face; an amalgamation of triumph and sadness of leaving all that great friendships behind. It was such an amazing experience to attend a conference under the roof of Robert College during 4-7 January 2008. It was PDC's first EYP (European Youth conference as a club, Parliament) therefore at first we had some doubts. However after we had faced the friendly ambience and sumptuous structure of Robert College we realized that we would have four great days. There were delegates from different schools, coming from all around the country. They were all ambitious and chummy. Yet we all established great, life long friendships.



We, as TED Ankara College attended the conference with 5 delegates (Bahar Cila, Alca Kara, Barış Şen, İrem Tümer, Gamze Karaca). We represented our school in Environment, Social, Economy, Middle East, Communication and Transmission Security Committees. Different topics were discussed. I believe that for everyone the best and most inviting part of the conference was teambuilding process. Teambuilding session was on the second day of the conference. The purpose of it was to strengthen therelations among delegates and to supply a better ambience to solve the problems in the committees.



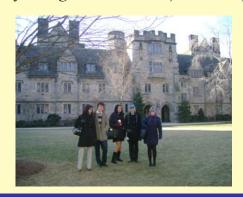
Different kinds of games were played and everyone started to get closer to each other. After such an enjoyable day, debates and resolution writing process started. It was hard for every committee to find a mid point among different thoughts and views. Still we put forward an outstanding effort, and at last caught a common point to start writing a resolution. After two exhausting working days, we were ready to introduce our resolutions in the plenary. The last day was the General Assembly where all the committees submitted their resolutions and debated on them. It was a tiring day with voting arguments and even fights; however, in the end everyone was pleased and satisfied with what we had done. Here now sitting, remembering those memories with a smile on my face, I am looking forward to attending the next IGF.



There we were. All six of us. Standing in front of the Phelphs Gate, fascinated by the ancient architecture of Yale University. Our Yale Model United Nations dream had just started. It was the first time we were attending such a large-scaled conference. Some of us had been to Paris Model United Nations (PAMUN), but this was Yale MUN, hence being unique.



When we entered the cathedral in which the opening ceremony was going to be held, we were totally surprised by the huge crowd in the assembly. With over 1100 delegates, it was obvious that the conference was going to be quite captivating. After the opening ceremony, we went on with our committee sessions which were to last for 3 days. With 5 delegates in 5 different committees, we all debated on our issues, including the human rights violations in Burma, the uranium enrichment of Iran and the the role of HIV/AIDS in the less developed countries, during all those tiring but entertaining days. Most of the committees were so huge that some of them had to be separated into less sizeable bunches, whereas one of our friends was in a committee of 15 delegates. We were the only foreigners in YMUN, therefore, we



found the conference a bit formidable at first, but later on we became so used to it that we didn't even hesitate before making a speech or directing a question in front of all those native speakers. One of our friends was even chosen the delegate with the best accent. Apart from the committee sessions, there were some problems with the working of the conference, such as notepassing not being controlled in some committees, in which some quite different(!) and intriguing(!) notes were passed.

Another thing, we disappointed at, was that the General Assembly did not take place. Yet, it was a great conference in general sense. We have perfect memories which we will never forget. For instance, we made a Yale tour in which we were frozen to death, but still amazed by the campus. Also, some of our friends were taken out of their beds in the middle of the night for a crisis situation... A class about 'Russian Culture' which we wanted to attend was cancelled as there were no students at all, and some of us lost their cell phones, however found them later (not everyone though, some bid farewell to their phones forever...) and we ate from the same places all the time (Subway became a classic) and of course we had a great time in New York before we returned to Turkey. Fifth Avenue, Times Square, Brooklyn Bridge, Empire States and New York as a whole... To sum up, Yale was a never-to-be-forgotten adventure for all of us.

YALE FULFILLED

How can we ever forget:

- our misery in the airport and our utopic flight plans to New York,
- the great comments of Barış for TimesSquare,
- If the crisis situation that struck us at 5 a.m in the morning,
- our trials to reach the Apple Store,
- Zeynep's freezing to death,
- Our terrific moments with Kağan at the top of the Empire States Building?

"I believe that this could very well be looked back on as the sin of our generation. I look at my parents and ask, where were they during the civil rights movement? I look at my grandparents and ask, what were they doing when the holocaust in Europe was occurring, and why didn't they speak up? And when we think of our great, great, great-grandparents, we think how could they have sat by and allowed slavery to exist? And I believe that our children and their children, 40 or 50 years from now, are going to ask me, what did you do while 40 million children became orphans in Africa?" -- Rich Stearns, President of World Vision, US

That was the philosophy behind THIMUN Youth Assembly and I have to admit that it was quite different from what we were used to as old school MUNers. Our usual approach to what we did in conferences was saying that we believed in diplomacy and discussing huge issues like adults. (or as some people call it playing FRP [Fantasy Role Playing] games in real life with a touch of politics). However in TYA, we had to do something real and not save the world in two pages that have the title "resolution" like we usually did.



We participated in TYA with my usual conference buddy: Bahar. I was one of the coordinators of the Committee on HIV/AIDS and Bahar was a participant of the Water and Youth Committee. My work started nearly 2 months before the conference. I met my cocoordinator Bev. (who is Chinese but also Canadian but lives in Australia-yep, complicated-) and we started off by setting the aims and content of the committee project. Our project's name was Act 4REAL (Act For Reaching the End of AIDS in our Lifetime"

and it consisted of setting up a website about HIV/AIDS and designing individual peer-to-peer awareness projects. In simpler words: all of the 12 participants had to design their own campaign to raise awareness among their society whether it be selling cupcakes or organizing seminars. We met our participants online at first and assigned weekly tasks which meant having to go over 12 different papers every week and staying up late to make Skype calls across continents.



After what seemed like an endless preparation phase we were there at The Hague, moving into our bungalow that was to be our home for the upcoming 9 days. During committee work, we really put a lot of effort in what we were doing; coming up with the entire content of a website in 2 days, developing projects and even managing to shoot a video on HIV/AIDS. Meanwhile, Bahar was working on their own project in the Water and Youth Committee which consisted of lots of interesting slogans and visual material that were an outcome of thorough brainstorming. One such example was "Water you doing?" which was quite a striking question for most of us[©] In the end, we were very exhausted after so much work, but there was this feeling of actually achieving something, which I believe proved once again that it was all worth it.

Months after TYA, all I can say is that it was a great experience for both of us; because for once what we worked on was not a great plan to save the world but a real action that could make a small difference. I think what TYA made us understand once again was that we all had the capacity and talents to come up with an answer for our grandchildren who will one

day ask us: "What did you do to change the world?"

I don't personally like being looked down on. I really don't. Not because my frivolous mannerisms should acclaimed wherever I go but rather I find it unsettling. So when I first heard that I participate in MUNTR, I was to immediately started making excuses for my future misbehaviours which might possibly include harsh expressions and violent expressions as responses to future affronts relating to my age there (as very attended high schools conference). However, my predictions on MUNTR turned out to be faulty and useless, very typical of me. Voilà, here's the story how Japan was big in MUNTR!



It was a bleak, bleak day in March, and as usual the photocopy guys were getting on everyone's nerves, especially on nerves of that tall guy with scruffy light brown hair. He and the girl next to him were waiting attentively for Japanese message paper to appear. This one was a killer, featuring the cover of the girl's book which made it a state-of-the-art piece of paper that you'd feel guilty spoiling it by writing on it.

Then, the boy heard someone say "Dress-up time!" and another exciting voice exclaiming "Away with the bus!". Just as he managed to distinguish his surroundings, he noticed that he was present in the conference hall of TOBB ETÜ as if he was caught up in an infamous tornado of Kansas and surprisingly deposited at that very place.



It was a strange delegation, or should I say a gang. A girl with shiny red shoes who was certainly not called Dorothy, a lioness with unruly wet wavy mane, a tin man with horribly adamant facial expressions, a scarecrow with an awful Justin Timberlake outfit and the wicked witch who was in the pursuit of the quartet with her winged killer heels (I literally mean "killer") and completely resilient to water made up the Japanese mission to the world of Oz. Oh, above all, Bahar the Good Witch of the North, copresident of the Environmental Commission (EC), always appeared here and then to continuously remind the gang that they were to follow the yellow-brick road not the yellow asphalt-paved motorway. Later on, the Good Witch of the North unexpectedly demonstrated her fine skills as a provocateur and became the sole reason of Security Council (SC) dismantling the EC which was fortunately a decision left unattended by the members of the SC despite being approved by all of them unanimously.



At the opening ceremony, the UN Resident Coordinator Officer, Halide Çaylan, honoured us with her influential presence and best part of the first day was free UN Charters! For the next four days, the strange gang had been prepared to tackle issues varying from child soldiers, admission of Taiwan to the UN and media censorship to global warming and a crisis that included Pakistani university students, the avian flu and the current situation in Kosovo at the same time on fellow which their Ozzians had shockingly accurate and broad information though these issues were about some far-off planet called the Earth.

I must admit that some interesting scenes took place in the conference: During the fourth session of the Fourth Committee, each delegate was wary of the ongoing and escalating tension between the Middle Eastern and European nations since that morning. The tipping point dawned when the European side rejected

the motion of the Iranian delegate for the third time and consequently the Iranian delegate left the House, scandalising all of the participants of the conference. Anyways, during the following days of the conference, the Japanese mission to the world of Oz, seemed to be prominently active, heaving crucial responsibilities both in writing resolutions to solve the aforementioned problems and contributing to the debates.

The final things I'd like to say is that all the delegates, admins, organizers, chairs and rest of the staff were extremely nice to all of us. There was no incident we were mocked because of still being high school students or underestimated, instead we were all offered accolades for our great accomplishments in the conference despite our ages. So, I was wrong again. Duh, I didn't think of a way to end this article properly, I think I'll have to stick with the usual one: And we lived happily ever after.



And with a click the sypmphony managed a second of pause.

The two Witches of an unknown land called Oz,
A fierce Lioness, a Kansas gal and an animated Tin Man

Created an ensemble that no one can.

While the pause made it into eternity,

The Scarecrow thanked them humbly.

Serenay Demir, Arınç Öztürk, Zeynep Üstün

GENERAL CONFERENCE

When we got off the school bus, I thought "This doesn't seem like much of a hell hole (!), they have been telling about throughout the year!". However, a few hours later, I managed to interpret the ambitious manners and sophisticated opinions of delegates, and consequently I an arduous thought "Wow, what conference!": With an impressive opening ceremony the most recent session of the (in)famous conference that some of my friends (who had attended it the previous year) were still marveling at, MUNESCO 2008 began.

Firstly, as TED Ankara College we participated in the conference with two delegations, one being my delegation, Republic of India and the other, Republic of Iraq. I'm inclined to say that we had really productive and daring delegates who knew a great deal about their issues!

Our first day was genuinely brisk and hectic. We tried to influence other delegates and find supporters for our resolutions. In fact, I was successful on this day because some of those delegates happened to be my friends and thus, it was easy to find sponsors but the best part of that day was the dinner. It was buffet meal and hence splendid!



On the second day, we all gathered in some classes in accordance with our specific commissions. Batu was in our commission as a delegate of Iraq. Yet, the subjects of our resolutions were totally different so we were not in the same merging group.



Also, we strived to merge our resolution clauses with the other clauses which had been prepared by other delegations. I can label the process "nourishing" and "gratifying" because sharing your opinions and trying to convince people who were from other schools was unfamiliar and hence in a strange way, pleasurable. At the end of this day both of us (Batu and I) were the main submitters of the resolutions that were the final results of us combining our clauses with the clauses of other delegates.

The third day, we had engaged ourselves in defending our resolutions. At the beginning, Batu advocated for his resolution and it passed with the majority of votes. My resolution was the second one. The delegations in the commission tried to fail my resolution but I struggled to alter this unfortunate condition and achieved to change their opinions. I was all alone; my co-submitters didn't back me up, still, I was full of ardor. I did my best in this short period of time and I accomplished in finding some supporters for my opinions. Unfortunately, the commission failed my resolution but this ardent and moving period was a success for me.

The next day, all of the delegates in commissions of the General Conference were to proceed in general assembly. According to the procedure, the approved resolutions had to be debated in the GC: By this way, exemplary but also professional resolutions were formed. In this part of the conference, you often find the debate stressful because, undelibarately, you find yourself in the middle of the debate.

One resolution was presented by the Indian delegation to the GC while two Iraqi resolutions were debated and fortunately they all passed. In fact three resolutions out of five were submitted by PDC! A triumphant result! I'm proud of my friends who have been through lots of trouble to achieve this result.

The only thing that I can't forget is the ambitious atmosphere. I think all the delegates should face up with this. To get over many problems, I challenged people a lot and did my best. My passion and effort in this conference made me bold and gutsy, I believe. I will always be cherishing this conference.

SPECIAL FOCUS

I've never thought that something could be so tiring and enjoyable at the same time. Still, the following records are the palpable proof of it.

Well, we were all separated into committees in the conference and mine was Special Focus I, which actually consisted of enthusiastic and willing delegates as well as two divinely funny chairs. Our days passed with long hours of thinking, producing, debating, and voting on everything ranging from Turkey's political affairs to what to do in summer, and of course with our chairs' desperate efforts to make us play games. As a result of these fruitful days, both of the resolutions failed in the General Assembly, unfortunately!

Everyone knows that debating can be boring and exhausting sometimes; but I also want therefore all of you to know that we also had a lot to do beside it. Waiting in the long queue, enclosed with the unbearable fear of the food going off, was just a little source of happiness for us, since we had time to try salsa moves with Gökcan! When we finally reached the food, we started to laugh without knowing the reason why, in a lunatic way, half-crazed with greed. And once, we were so hungry and eating so violently that Gökcan, Sayen, Gediz and I were mistaken for little pathetic orphans who had not been given food for a week, by the onlookers. Well, since all my amusing memories somehow include elements related to "food", you may think that all of the PDC members are starving and constantly eating and you wouldn't be precisely wrong... So if you happen to see a group of people with full plates, chewing with full mouths, eyes wide open and smiling without realizing they have bits left in their teeth: Welcome, it is most probably our table!



EXECUTIVE BOARD

MUNESCO, an experience you simply just can't put into words. Of course as any MUN conference MUNESCO has its clichés as well; every committee within itself prepares resolutions, has 'fruitful' debates and gains both bitter and sweet memories. Now that the conference is over there is a feeling reminding me of emptiness since we were so overly exaggerating the conference. Yet, it passed by vivaciously before our eyes and we were totally amazed because this experience was a matchless one among all other conferences. In the lobbying day, we got a chance to see old faces and reminisce the past as we did find a chance to meet new faces that we would never forget. All in all, MUNESCO seemed to be a fulfilling conference in all aspects.

The second session of the EuroSimA Conference was held in Middle East Technical University between 24-27th of April. Although the conference was actually open to the participation of the university students, due to the experience and highly developed skills that our club members had showed in previous conferences, seven of our friends applied and were accepted for the The delegates conference. who participated in the conference were, Burcu Uğuz, Hüseyin Kağan İmamoğlu, Gökcan Demirkazık, Barış Şen, Hazal Saral, Zeynep Azizoğlu and İrem Tümer who was chosen for the charing position in Home and Justice Affairs Committee.



EuroSimA was a challenging conference for several reasons. Firstly, we were the youngest delegates between the attendants and most of the other delegates were university students who were studying politics, international relations or law. However, the events evolved opposite to what we have expected. All of our friends put on enormous efforts in the committee work and gained the heart of the university students. Our friends amused every one with their level of English, with their experience and with their social skills. We were also very proud to hear that two of our friends are awarded due to their performance in the Conference. Gökcan's name announced by the president, Defne Gönenç, with her also kind remarks about him. She announced her as the best delegate I have seen in my life. This is of course very honoring for our club and for my fellow friend Gökcan. Kağan was also given an Outstanding Delegate Award for he was a remarkable paragon achievement as the Dutch Delegate and he was the gravity centre of the debates where the most of the procession of the debates evolved by his arguments in the Home and Justice Affairs Council (HJAC). Being in that committee myself, to witness his impressive knack for constructing valid arguments, it made me think that he excelled in diplomacy and proved that he had a wonderful academic background that is even comparable to the most au fait and experienced members of PDC.

All in all, rest of our friends was very successful, too. One of the attendants said in the daily of the Conference that: "I don't like the high-school students because they make me feel old." I believe everyone who has participated in the conference learned a lot of things and had fun. We witnessed the university environment, learned and taught things, gave break, made good friends and improved their skills.

What's more, for the fun part, our fast paced strolls through the campus jungles that were unbelievably entertaining, our challenge to stand up, immobilized, in "dolmus" which swarmed with sweaty people and Burcu defending charitable work and humanitarian aid to Africa against some vicious and merciless people in "dolmuş" make everything unforgettable. Or rather should I mention the sensational (!) food at the cafeteria, and some people's especially Baris, Hazal and Gökcan's unending trials of taking artistic and usually meaningless photos where Kağan and Burcu served as the perfect models? If you're demanding for exceptionally well-managed conferences and frivolous hilarity, EuroSimA is just the befitting event for you!..



Nowadays, seeing the confident signature of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), under the global aid campaigns, an admission document accepting or objecting

to a new member state or as a helper organization in specific countries with its ambitious troops (such as in Afghanistan) just as a teenager trying to prove herself, should not surprise you. In my opinion, especially during the last ten years, the change in NATO's nature is a big question mark in the abstruse mind of the world and unfortunately, of the members of NATO, as well. Enlarging their endeavour to world's issues and being more comprehensive in size and more efficacious through new members, the term used to express the deviation of NATO in the 21st century is 'enlargement of NATO in structure and goals". This procession seems to contribute to the continuum of a hot debate; for a hard question lingers in everyone's minds: 'Where has NATO been heading?' The answer is tangibly puzzling; as it's clear from non-accepted states and the missions that have the illusion of a 'Mini-UN'. (Howard Lafranchi)

NATO was established in 1949 and started its long journey with the key words 'security', 'defence' and for 'acting as a whole', in the Euro-Atlantic area; regardless of the possible future problems being pertinent to military or politics. It has been underlined many times in the treaty, in the core of NATO. The treaties' sentences were surrounded by a smell of cooperation; 'They, the members, seek to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area.' However, will this obvious aim be upheld against the vigorous winds of time or will NATO choose the path of its mind and head to unknown directions, without bothering the original principles?

Seeming to be full of difficult missions; NATO acted wisely and

increased the number of various partners and members in its alliance and kept appearances up with the international organizations from the beginning. The clever bonds between the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) or the partnerships with non-member countries have been well-planned. Moreover the consequence of NATO strengthening itself was the beginning of triumph over the power of Soviet Union (which was the indomitable one and which led Europe Atlantic to have such and organization).



NATO worked efficiently during the first years. No doubt, the well-known example was its contribution against the communist regimes in the Cold War. Although the endless debates on NATO's role in the war on communism still take place, I think what NATO had to do was what NATO did during and even after the Cold War, in the conflict between the East and the West. Another example could be 9/11 attacks to USA, though the mind of NATO started to get hold of new ideas, which would all be left half-done in the following decade. Nevertheless, USA had the adequate support through the military network of NATO, which was reinforced by new members' capacity of forces. NATO began 21st century, showing the world its influence on stability and security of its member states, in a silent celebration of power.



With the advancement of 21st century, NATO began widening itself with the means of partners which will lead to a more dominant organization. However, NATO took an important settlement with its help to Afghanistan. Being entirely global! "This is one of the most challenging tasks NATO has ever taken on, but it is a critical contribution to international security" stated Secretary General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, in a defensive manner. NATO sent 47.000 troops to the area together with its partner ISAF as if it had to. Yes, a fact is that the conflict in Afghanistan was crying for help but the question lies under the name "NATO". If the aim was to stabilize the Euro-Atlantic area on the day of hardships and threat, who could explain the point in having missions 'outof area? Mr. Secretary General can. And he did, through our most fragile point; the foremost danger our of times: international security and terrorism.

Nowadays, terrorists and unstabilized countries are troubling enough to distress the world; such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo. Even so,



lots of international organizations are providing aids to these countries and the UN is just one of them. So, being a new helper is

not so realistic. Besides, the efforts NATO made to help Afghanistan brought it lots of burden, much bureaucracy than it had... But NATO believes that it can get

through all these as it has a reliable military power and political authority.

When the officials and politicians discuss this recent and complicated aim of NATO, trying to expand its boundaries each day, with the dangerous term 'worldwide', one more thing being talked is argumentatively. Should NATO change its point of view from top to bottom? Evident from its missions in Afghanistan, Bosnia or Iraq that they sought for this purpose and that they are undergoing a kind of metamorphose. For this, NATO prepared the 'Study on Enlargement of NATO' to avoid all the questions. They took the risks to reach their new destination, claiming that these will help out their rooted ambitions and the betterment of their ways through the irreplaceable success.



On the other hand, NATO is now thirsty for more capacity to demonstrate their efficacious work in the world. They would like to reach a more powerful and more affluent stage, with the valuable leading of their outstanding members, such as the USA. However, from my point of view, although some analysts claim that the work will maintain the stabilization process in the area, the decisions NATO may take should be lasting, which can also be changed according to the situations; because the point which NATO tries to get access to right now is pretty different and far from what they aimed and put as a basic intent in the very beginning of their journey. Claiming that NATO can open its doors as if it would help Europe, may not be enough in each case.

In the light of the so-called deviation comes also the question topic that is one of the most pre-eminent in our decade, the new members in the heart of NATO. NATO needs new members; in order to make its protective wings for Europe the "bestest". Additionally, to entire world; either temporarily or permanently. Despite the agreements on new members each year, unsound voices of objections came from France and Germany the iustification in recognizing the membership of countries: When the candidate status of Georgia and Ukraine was in the debate, the chancellor of Germany and the president of France did not want to allow them in, without clearly telling 'Why?'. (Nonetheless, in the 2008 summit of NATO, in Bucharest, it is decided that these countries WOULD become members.) Was not the most important step cooperation? Once in a while, it might not.

In addition to each milestone, in the explanation of the ideological rebirth of NATO, not relating to the discarding of the previous ambiguous uneasiness between NATO and Russia, would be a crucial fault. Contradicting the fact that being sworn enemies for decades, having special joint councils for the flow of information points out a linkage between NATO and Russia... They all are the clues for the transformation of NATO and how it changed its structure.

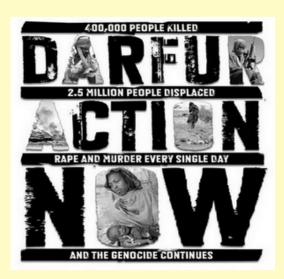
Surrounded by challenges memberships, relations and dawning of conquests in new operations, NATO has been heading to be an ultimately potent organization, from all perspectives. Yet, what is hard to conceive is that whether it will be in "charge" of these all together as NATO has new responsibilities? NATO, do remember, altering yourself with the pretexts of the links between Europe and everything you are doing, are trials to build an almost new 'you'. It may lead to an unpleasant end. You are enlarging and are on the way of becoming the "superintendent" of the world; does it really matter, attaining your goals perfectly? Whatever, you aspire to be, the champion of international platforms with military, acquiring superlative adjective 'most powerful' or to be 'the one'... Cooperation, flawless relations, brand-new members are your brain and your brain is to safeguard your area, the Euro-Atlantic; through where you want to supervise the whole world by modifying your way to questionable victories.



We usually hear politicians mentioning Darfur and the UN reports concerning Darfur. Yet, what do we know about the situation of the state? The simplest thing we can say is that there is a civil war in Darfur between the rebels and the government of Sudan. However, the situation is even more complicated. The conflict is mainly between the tribes and the caciques. The crisis is not only in Darfur but it also damages the stability of the region. Moreover, the chaos is sustained by environmental problems. As the UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon stated after his trip to Darfur, it is impossible to find a single solution to the situation. In order to provide peace to the region, we have to find solutions to all dependent factors.

Darfur is a western state of Sudan, with a population of six million within an area just as large as France. The majority of people living in Darfur are Africans while the majority of people and administration of Sudan are made up by Muslims and Arabs. The crisis which is labeled as "genocide" began in 2003 when "Sudan Liberation Movement" and "Justice Equality Movement" recruited primarily from the land-tilling non-Arab Fur, Zaghawa, and Massaleit ethnic groups. Although the official governmental statements denied Sudanese government has provided money and assistance to the militia and has participated in joint attacks targeting the tribes from which the rebels have been drawing support.

The conflict that has materialized farmers and nomads between triggered after the discovery of petrol. Darfur is rich in petrol but only the administrative officials can benefit from it, while 40% of the population remains below the poverty line. Furthermore, disagreements stirred up by water between the tribes give in to the ongoing rebellious movements. Given conditions, the rebellious movements are backed up by the public. In order to quell the rebel riots, the government supported Janjeweed militas who burned down the cities and raped women instead. Then the clashes were divided into three groups, consisting of the conflicts altering between the government, rebels, Janjeweed militas and public.



Observers indicate that a considerable majority of Muslim civilians Are adversely affected by the uprisings and their consequences.

According to UN data, at least 400.000 people died, 4.000.000 people became dependent on HIV/AIDS and 2.500.000 people became homeless. Some of them migrated to Chad and some of them took shelter in humanitarian assist camps. However, women who leave the camp to find water or food are frequently raped.

For a long time, the international community wasn't involved in the situation. At last, substantial measures were decided on to be taken but the Sudanese government who is blamed for supporting the military groups and doing ethnic cleansing blocked the action. Finally, after all the embargos and sanctions, the government agreed on UN's interference in 2007. Today there are 7000 soldiers belonging to African Union Peacekeeping Force but the number is not enough. The peace keeping summits have not resulted in any tangible consensus and the crisis remains fragile and volatile...

The Politics and Diplomacy Club is all about taking on the roles of adults. As diplomats, as ambassadors, as ombudspeople. But this time, for a change, I write this article through the point of view of a young person. A young person who is gravely worried about what is about to happen if things do not change soon enough. A young person who has taken action. A young person who wants to share her experience, hoping that I can influence some more to do likewise. That's why, this time, I write as myself. I write about my journey in the water politics and I seek your patience and participation.

The first time I realized that something was wrong with the water situation was when I heard the city of Ankara would have water supply only once in two days for a whole summer. I started to question: I live in a capital city, a metropol. How come we do not have sufficient water? And the decision did not only concern households, it included factories, offices, and most importantly, hospitals. Having no water meant no sanitation. It meant going back to the 18th century.

It was not until I got accepted to a conference to the Water and Youth Committee in the THIMUN Youth Assembly that I really sank deep into the issue. Our aim was to design and execute an awareness campaign on water, for which we started working a couple of months beforehand. During my research I came across facts that are horrifying. The facts are not only about water stress, they are about clean water, about waterborne diseases, about having access to water, about having to share a water resource or having no water resource at all.

Did you know that more than 200 water resources in the world are shared and thus competed over by two or more countries? I didn't. Did you know that in the developing world, 90% of the population has no access to clean water? I didn't. Did you know that 40% of the world's inhabitants currently have insufficient fresh water for minimal hygiene? I didn't. Did you know that a child dies every 15 seconds from easily preventable water-related diseases? I didn't. But I learnt as I read, and my fear

of what's happening now, and what is to happen in the near future, got bigger and bigger. And I felt the urge to do something about it.



So I put my heart and soul into the campaign. I spent a lot of time doing research. I put in hours trying to grasp all the areas of this many-folded issue and I saw all the things that can be done. The things that can be done but are completely ignored by the majority of the world population. Simple things. Like putting a stop to singing in the shower and saving 2 minutes' worth of water. Or not leaving the tap running while brushing your teeth. Or not doing the dishes by hand. Everyday things that can save up to 150 tons of water per year.

It is absolutely certain that we have to raise the amount and quality of the world's water. We need to start recycling, we need to be more water-conscious. We need to work in order to provide access to safe water all around the world. And as "we", I mean the youth. The power of youth in raising awareness and taking action is more powerful than any adult bureaucracy. It is fresh, creative and heartfelt. This is the reason why I've written this article. To call upon you all to join in, any way you can. To be conscious. To be aware. To be active. Because as youth, we do have the power to change the world.

P.S. This is the last column I write for the Young Ambassador. So long De Facto!

"People may be said to resemble not the bricks of which a house is built, but the pieces of a picture puzzle, each differing in shape, but matching the rest, and thus bringing out the picture." said a wise man, Felix Adler once and defined 'diversity' as a unifying factor in each branch of life rather than a reason for creating differences and accordingly obstacles among the members of our world and our environment. Diversity is the very identity of the planet we live on and furtermore, the reflections of this simple characteristic property is visible in everything that belongs -or once upon a time belonged- to this planet. Thus, it is also one of the most fundamental need and property of the living organisms on our earth, who are to create the populations, communities and respectively the ecosystem we also are a part of.

Biodiversity is basically the variation of life forms within a certain ecosystem, biome or for the entire Earth. Biodiversity found on Earth today consists of many millions of distinct biological species, which is the product of four billion years of evolution. Many theories on the subject encompass the attention to subtitles such as 'species richness' and 'species evenness' which can be defined as 'the number of species in a given area' and 'a measure of biodiversity which quantifies how equal the community are numerically' respectively. Broadly, biodiversity is the prosperity of the species of all the living organisms on the earth.

Besides the environmental priority of the issue, biodiversity is also a key factor in the well-being of mankind. Since 40 per cent of the global economy is based on biological products and processes, it is inevitable no to affected biological by the environmental states and changes in the world for human beings. The source of most of the crucial fields in life such as agriculture, animal husbandry, food, medicines, timber, fuel and even the poor who mostly rely on the planet's natural capital for health and livelihoods and accordingly the entire economy are the environment and thus, the betterment and stableness of the components of the nature directly alters the welfare of humankind.

Besides all this formality process, the very basic question is; "Do the people act sensitively towards this significant issue?" The answer is, of course, an ultimate 'no'. The human being, who is always allergic to the matters that played the lead role for the continuity of the world and the environment, once more shows up. Human activities all over the world cause irreversible damages and progressive loss of living things, and respectively, of many animal and plant species which ends up with extinction of these organisms.

the international platforms. numerous treaties and conventions have been submitted and implemented on the issue so far, as well as many are still on the table. The solid product of these facilities are an agreement made in April 2002, under the umbrella of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which aims: 'to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth.', and was also endorsed by the World Sustainable Development. Summit on Biodiversity was also one of the key subjects of 'five~vear Millennium the Ecosystem Assessment (MA)' in which UNEP was a partner, and which concluded in 2005, taking resembling decisions and actions.

Diversity is, hereby, the very base of the immutable balance of each an every organism on the earth, and therefore, is the only ticket leading to a healthy and 'existing' world. Hundreds of years later, when our grandchildren will be obliged to smell only one flower species on the ground, when they will be destined to see birds in just one colour around, when they will be so far from the world they see in their grandfathers' photographs, they will chastise us severly by asking a simple question, which all of us should be preparing the answers for right now: "What the heck were these fickle and deleterious people thinking of? 'So the mad man created the colours, let's go, blacken them?!?"

G-AID!

Burma is one of the largest countries in Southeast Asia. Burma's meaning addresses the regime that has been currently in power over the country: It is ruled by military dictatorship which is called, the military junta It is a kind of government that prefers (!) *not* to offer medical support for the HIV/AIDS patients and say: "Let them eat frogs" to their citizens... To be honest, this kind of approach towards politics had not been on the agenda since Marie Antoinette.

On May 4th, Burma was struck by a huge cyclone, which resulted in the death of thousands, the destruction of about 20,000 homes and 90,000 people being homeless. This terrifying natural disaster was soon going to be named the "Narcissos Cyclone". After this horrible disaster, Burmese government officially requested help from the United Nations. However, quite ironically, government formally rejected this help by stating the following sentence: "We are not willing to accept international assistance, we would more preferably request for bilateral aid; government to government."



Consequently, some non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations and officials were in the move to reach Burma to provide the humanitarian aid, however the Burmese junta declined to issue visas for them. What's more, the junta forced a CNN reporter to leave the region and to stop reflecting the reality; in a nutshell, the

main aim was to conceal the misery of the Burmese people. The junta formally declared that they would accept aid that is limited to food or cash financial aid but the officials also announced that they would not accept foreign laborers, volunteers or organization individuals in the state borders.

The Burmese citizens are under extremely poor conditions, which lead to numerous deaths via starvation, lack of sanitation and other essential needs, and epidemic diseases. On the other hand, all that the current government proclaims is that their citizens are "luckily" able to do fishing or feed on frogs. Therefore it is firmly expressed that the public can survive this catastrophe without any international assistance. Unquestionably, the junta is in the wrong path to deal with the situation; the demonstrations against the government and its calamitous political moves are widespread around the country.

Quite surprisingly, the junta has officially made it public that they would allow all the assistant workers into the country after weeks of denial of access to those beyond the border. This delay cost the Burmese dearly; statistics point out approximately 78,000 people who were killed, another 56,000 that went missing and 2.5 million survivors who were made to eat frog and catch fish every day. At total, this capricious move meant for the lives of more than 2,634,000 people It could, without any doubt, be considered as a crime against humanity. If that doesn't constitute a crime against humanity, then what does? All those people beseeching the world citizens for help and salvation...

Do the humane jurisdictions allow this the type of direct attack to the fundamental rights of the living human beings? Can the refusal of assistance and ignoring the misery of its people be a political strategy of a government? Somehow, this terrible situation still keeps itself from being an embarrassment for all the past and present civilizations.

wise man called Marshall with straightforward McLuhan a futuristic vision once said: "Politics will eventually be replaced by imagery. The politician will be only too happy to abdicate in favour of his image, because this image will be much more powerful than he could ever be." When I first got across to these lines, my reaction was of no surprise, since I deemed it nothing but a prophecy revealed too late; this quote was fairly correct for the 21st century. Still, by the time I learn that these words belonged to the year of 1971 and Mr McLuhan had passed away in 1980, I stood baffled, my eyes fixed on the words: "Such a genuine foresight!" I exclaimed.

I pronounced those four little

words of astonishment during I was doing some research to write this article. Because it reminded me of the majestic change Europe had undergone in the previous century, especially the late decades of the 20th

century: We no longer recall a continent overwhelmed by the terrorizing shade of the Cold War cast upon it, when the word "Europe" rings in our ears. The images of Nicholas Sarkozy, Gordon Brown, and Angela Merkel all seem to be associated with prosperity, economic opportunities and stability by the youth all over the world: There is an obvious increase in Eastern European students that single out remaining in Europe, getting on their studies there and abandoning the socalled "American Dream". In contrary to the saying "The grass is always greener on the other side." that challenges the validity of imagery, the appearances of the politicians I mentioned do not just signify masters of diplomacy ruled by ambition but rather a Europe on the rise just after its mid-life crisis...After all, it makes me wonder whether or not "United European States" is a "fictional" utopia.

The idea dates back to 1923 and originates from a co-founder of the pan

European movement, Austrian Kalergi. Despite not being on the spotlight for decades, the applicability and soundness of the idea is constantly discussed by the disputatious European politicians, today. With the refusal of the European Constitution by the Netherlands and France in 2005 through referenda, this issue has been the most delicate point of Europe that requires only the most tactful phrases to be dealt with.

What is all this tumult about and what are the main aspects of this multifaceted constitution, indeed? The Constitution basically proposed the establishment of the positions of EU foreign minister and a more durable European Union (EU) President, mutual

defence policies, the activation of a "double majority" and qualified majority system that ensures the command of wider respect for the decision of EU, increase in numbers of common policy areas from 34 to 70, a binding charter of rights and a reproaching

clause that snaps at future-withdrawals from EU, implying that it will not be that easy. If you consider these thoroughly, you can clearly spot the uncanny resemblance to a confederate-state.

The scenario of an ultraliberal EU where national sovereignty has lost all its functions may have scared off the French voters and their Dutch counterparts or the fear that British impact on EU becomes far sizeable may have driven them into frenzy, yet how long will this defensive and conservative attitude last? Will the powerful political figures of the Old World be able to conquer the hearts of their nations as the debate escalates? No one can answer these questions exactly, yet all can claim that Europe is on the way of multi-polarizing the world becoming the new face of innovation and sustainability by waging and profiting from peace. This visualization makes me gasp and murmur: "Images are the most powerful assets one can acquire, indeed."



Right to Live

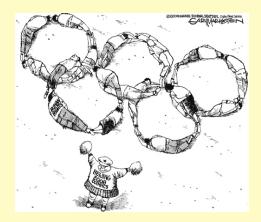
"Allowing Beijing to host the Games would help the development of human rights." said the Vice President of the Beijing Olympic Bid Committee, Liu Jingmin. To see if the games would be beneficial for such melioration, we should take a look at the situation in Tibet.

To begin with the prisons in China, we can see that the system is very tough. There are death penalties and people are often murdered extrajudicially. The other point that should be raised is the torture and abuse in the prisons: The prisoners are agonized violently and subjected to various kinds of torment. Many of those who cannot handle this situation even commit suicide in the prison. For example; a Tibetan arrested in Lhasa in August 1999 for trying to raise the Tibetan flag in the public square was brutally beaten and racked before taken away by the Public Security Officers. In March, it was reported that he had committed suicide because he couldn't endure and get along with the conditions in the prisons. In addition to that, women are abused and they are obliged to do the hardest work that requires a great amount of physical constitution there.

The second eminent point is the lack of transparency in governance and freedom of the press. The pressure on the local press still persists and casts its bleak shadow on citizens while the media employees are repeatedly fired. Censorship is fervently applied on the websites with the aim of "terminating" the ones who publish audacious (!) political news.



Thirdly, the attitude towards Human Rights Activists makes up quite a considerable subject. Several groups of demonstrators were roughly punished and sent to the prison. For one thing, a counselor of law called Chen Cuagchang who was a blind man had been the target of the guardians and was assaulted cruelly.



Now, if all the points are to be taken into consideration, will the Olympics help the amelioration of human rights as the Vice President said or should we just abet the countries which are boycotting it?

Even though some countries have the idea of boycotting the Olympics, some of them oppose this idea adding that it is nonsense. For instance, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said a boycott would be pointless and suggested that the aim of those games is to tie, not to divide. British PM Gordon Brown, confirmed that they would be there when the flame arrives. Also, the Danish PM, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs have admitted the significance and benefits of the Olympics for the betterment of China and stated that they would be present in the ceremonies.

After the statements of different countries, the gravity and the role of the Olympics to bond people have been clarified. However, it is still unknown whether a series of game is sufficient to put an end to such violations that have been ongoing for so long...

"The most certain test by which we judge whether a country is really free is the amount of security enjoyed by minorities," once said John Dalberg Acton, commonly known as Lord Acton, who played a tremendous role for the motivation of nations on their way to liberty with his remarks towards how the basic rights of the minorities should be enjoyed.



History has been a histrionic stage for diplomacy and politics, mostly bloody , dishonest and cruel. Still, is it a discreet approach to ignore the scripts that blossomed among this artificial and tyrannic social order? The struggle of nations for liberty is the most virtuous and sacred scene of this scenario...as long as this liberty is achieved only by the own initiative of the nation and does not lead to being a dependency of certain powers.

The 17th of February, 2008 can be disputed from various points of view if it is said to be a holy contestation of the Kosovan people for liberation from the Serbian authority. As a well-organized operation of NATO on the region is concerned, instead of a strife between the Kosovan and Serbian forces and a consequent triumph, the declaration of independency that was made by the president, Hasim Taci, carries his nation into a lot more different dimension from Palestine, who has been fighting to regain her right to "promised lands" or the Turkish nation, who struggled against imperialism and subserviance to reach their freedom, both in political and economic platforms right after the World War I.

Kosovo, possesses a far complicated status than most of the states that declared her independancy after a civil war. This is both because of her geopolitical and historical position process, mostly dominated with the ethnic slaughter by Serbian the dictator; Slobodan Milosevic. The continuous but unspoken altercationnm between the United States, who gives full support to the Kosovan authority and on the other the Russian Federation, having hand declared her unfavorable demeanor to recognize Kosovo, keeps the tension throughout the region on possibly the highest level. Moreover, the misionery attempts of the West-European states, such as Germany and Italy on the Kosovan people, consisted of Muslims dominantly who have Albanian and Turkish roots diverts the dispute to another complicated status.

The attitude of Turkey,on the other hand, who has been struggling with the rebel minorities is being watched on as the latest nationalist movement of Kosovo happens to will affect the ethnic disputes among the world.Likewise, Turkish Republic Of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) is waited to make a well-planned diplomatic move to revive the recognition issue on international level.



Balkans, and its new member Kosovo, who is trying to obtain a position on diplomatic platforms, seems to will sustain being the focal point of the disputes on the upcoming day.

Youthograph

Three years ago, when I first started Debate Club (it wasn't PDC back then) there weren't many people interested in MUN or any other politics related activity. The people in our school knew we did MUN but they didn't know what it stood for. I know I had friends who didn't know the difference between UN and NATO nor what they were abbreviated for. The number of the Turkish participants at the international conferences we'd attended unbelievably small compared to the other countries.



However, I saw the difference of their approach to politics first handed. The ones that didn't know what UN stood for started to ask questions on what we do and what UN does, how it works. They later on started to read my resolutions and asking me questions if they didn't understand anything and even started to comment on some of my clauses.

As the Club, we were the ones who were into politics however we were only participating to the MUN Conferences. Last year we participated in EYP Olympic Forum and that was the beginning of our EYP journey.

EYP (European Youth Parliament) was a format just like MUN that Robert College students had attended to for years but as the request to participate in the conferences increased, they had to form EYP TURKEY. A board which would eliminate the delegates taking their previous experience into consideration.



The number of Turkish participants in international conferences also increased as the time passed by. Both in MUN and in EYP. Last year, we were only five delegates and one chair at the Olympic Forum; however, this year, although the limit was increased to ten delegates many of the requests to participate in the conference were declined by the board.

The high schools started to attend to university conferences whether they're in Turkey or not. For example we have both participated in MUNTR, EurosimA and also in YMUN.



All in all, the youth of Turkey is becoming more and more interested in politics as time goes by. Maybe there'll be many more conferences in the near future and the number of Turkish participants will be much more than the other countries and the people of tomorrow will be already informed about the past and the present.

Illustrations by Umut Dinçer - Text by Gökcan Demirkazık and Gamze Karaca

To celebrate our fourth issue we present you a mind-blowing featurette that you will not be able to let go easily: Make-Your-Own-Conference Kit! Read the instructions on positions, cut out the personality cards and the figures on the following page, fold in the figures so that they can stand upright and finally decide on an awkward topic (Should Bananas Be Banned Because of the Possible Violence They Expose to People?) for the debate to begin... Enjoy yourselves!

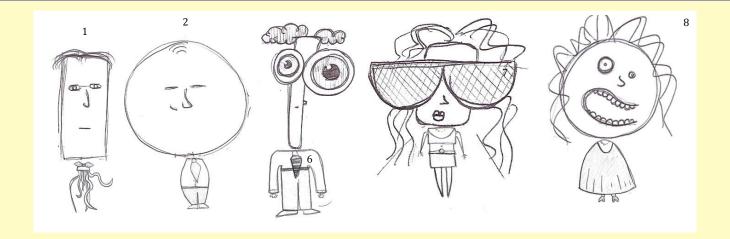


What do the chairs, delegates, admins and journalists do?

• *Chairs* are basically the rulers of the house who dominate the debate and make sure that everything's in compliance with the procedures. An unquestionable amount of authority belongs to them and they are probably the most functional components of the debates: Among numerous responsibilities, they have the right to recognize the delegates (for questions, to make speeches...), make the house come to order (silencing them) and organize official documents such as resolutions and amendments (changes in resolutions). European In Parliament (EYP) events, chairs are also burdened with the task of conducting the Team Building (TB) sessions, during which delegates play several games aimed at coalescing them into a harmonized committee that will be ready for problemsolving.



- In Model United Nations (MUN) Conferences, delegates represent the country they are assigned to and they act according to their countries' policies (i.e. holding their own reflections in abeyance) whereas in European Youth Parliament (EYP) Conferences, delegates approach the issue with their own criteria and principals as well as defining the view of the world's youth on a particular issue. After long hours of discussion, delegates gather and try to come up with a single solution (which is in a written form called a resolution), that will be later on discussed in the General Assembly (where the majority of *delegates* of the whole conference are present) or any given platform.
- If you have a curious *admin* in your committee, that is possibly the worst thing that can happen to you. Admins are the guys that convey your messages to other delegates/chairs and provide you with your basic needs such as notepaper, pens and a Grande Strawberry-flavoured Chocolate Frappucino.
- Journalists do the things you perceive when the word "journalist" is pronounced. They publish the daily newspaper of the conference and are quite fond of the latest gossips. They may be often annoying as they usually exaggerate what you tell them and print it on the newspaper that way (just pulling your legs guys, no offence intended!).



- 1- Kâmuran Fuat Suavi (Turkish): A true gentleman that is an expert at chairing hot but excessive and tiresome debates. Admired by everyone yet loved by no one, he is just as useful to people around him as a plastic surgeon is to Ajda Pekkan. Doesn't like eating fish at all and never takes candies from strangers. His alter-ego is a saucy musical star that speaks perfect Italian. Favourite place: Disneyland Paris.
- Favourite place: Disneyland Paris.

 4- Güz Badana (Turkish): Despite being a lovely admin, she is extremely myopic. In her spare time, she walks her neighbours' dogs, cooks for the homeless and plays weekly the French horn in her band *Zoo Plighters* for charity organizations. Yet, her altruistic nature cannot prevent her from being very wasteful with toilet paper and toothpaste. Her alter-ego is a feisty 1960's

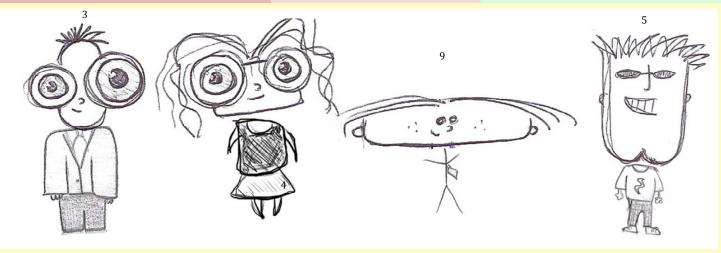
diva. Favourite Place: Her cardboard-box in

which she can space-travel.

7- Focette de Commenoire (French): As her extraordinary name may have signaled you, Focette has a family background dating back to Medieval French aristocracy. Some even claim that her great-great-great-grandfather had a secret affair with celebrated queen Marie Antoinette. She participates in the conferences as a delegate to show off her new outfits. Her alter-ego is a Japanese hotel maid that has 37 goldfish at home. Favourite Place: John Galliano Store in Champs-Élysées.

- 2- Filippus Van Mondig (Dutch): His sole reason for attending MUN and EYP conferences as an admin is that pleasing his eyes with the images of beautiful "treats". Rarely seen awake in the sessions, he can party whole night. He is really ticklish and has grown a liking for dog food. His alter-ego is a Inuit fisherman who plays the melodica frequently. Favourite Place: Women fashion conventions all over the world.
 - Bruno Shaiser (German/Emirati): Ethnically complicated with roots from each continent. Rarely complies with the dress code. He is also a Disney star that hasn't still taken up drugs (Lindsay Lohan tried to persuade him into it once!). His alter-ego is a "the X-files" geek obsessed with proving that bath ducks are aliens indeed. Favourite Place: Foliébergere Night Club in Paris.
 - 8~ Hana Kawar (Lebanese): 35% Craving for success. 30% Greed 34% Fat. 1% Humanity: That sums up for the woman of your dreams. Never consummate before shaking. Her alter-ego is a 57year-old retired woman who collects the balls of the kids that accidentally on lands backyard and never gives them back. Favourite Place: Gates of Hell.

- 3- Alex Rodion Dimirkakuchka (English/Russian): This cute little curious boy seems not old enough to be a part of MUN conferences but he serves as the excellent journalist: He has been trained by the FSB (Russian Secret Police) on surveillance systems and places listening devices wherever he goes. His alter-ego is a horrible mix of Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Paris Hilton. Favourite Place: Imperial War Museum.
- 6- Tatu Dreyfus (Finnish): He can be easily distinguished from other delegates by his irrelevant points (For example: "But what about the women in Côte d'Ivoire?" whilst debating Nuclear Disarmament in Iran) and his exclamations of wonder with his screeching voice when he learns something new (Saddam is DEAD?!?!) during the debates. His alter-ego is a vegan animal rights activist that secretly consummates dairy products. Favourite Place: Local dumping ground.
 - 9- Arnold Haye (Swiss): This enthusiastic delegate has formerly been an inspiration for a particular American cartoon series. A little known fact about him is that he possesses a superpower: The ability to spread open chicken wings that are not strong enough to heave him up to air. His alter-ego is an antique toy collector who is able to make gingerbread men come alive. Favoruite Place: Professor Xavier's Academy for Gifted Students.



Alca Kara

Answer the following questions in order to find out which one is the most suitable for you? Being a chair, a journo or a delegate?

- 1. What's your favorite song?
 - a. Starlight by Muse
 - b. When the Sun Goes Down by Arctic Monkeys
 - c. Always Somewhere by the Scorpions
- 2. Which Lost character is your favorite?
 - a. Jack
 - b. Kate
 - c. Sayeed
- 3. What's your favorite TV series?
 - a. Nip/Tuck
 - b. Scrubs
 - c. Lost
- 4. Who's your favorite actor?
 - a. James McAvoy
 - b. Gael Garcia Bernal
 - c. Al Pacino
- 5. If you survived a plane wreck and found yourself on an island, which 3 things would you take with yourself?
 - a. Magazines, water purifier and Matt Bellamy
 - b. Audrey Tautou, jeans, white chocolate of generous quantities
 - c. Guns with bullets, wax and Al Pacino
- 6. If you had \$1,000,000,000 for one day, what would you do?
 - a. Send the money to my Swiss accounts and use it for the rest of my life
 - Executing and directing an independent movie with Jean-Pierre Jeunet
 - c. Set on a world tour
- 7. Which movie would most reflect your own life?
 - a. Never Been Kissed
 - b. Pan's Labyrinth
 - c. Jeux d'Enfants

- 8. What's your favorite soda?
 - a. Uludağ
 - b. Çamlıca
 - c. Beypazarı
- 9. If you had one day to spend with one of the present-day politicians, who would it be?
 - a. Nicholas Sarkozy
 - b. Barrack Obama
 - c. Fidel Castro
- 10. What would be the perfect summer plan?
 - a. Going to Uganda with Invisible Children
 - b. A bohemian three-month-long stay in Montrmartre, Paris
 - c. Going to Alaska with Work and Travel Program



- 11. Which songs would be the top three songs you've listened to in your iPod?
 - a. Cherry Blossomed Girl by Air, Unintended by Muse and Hate Me by Blue October
 - b. Driftwood by Travis, Closer by Joshua Radin, Naïve by the Kooks
 - c. Sweet Softly Love by Andy Williams, Stay On These Roads by A-Ha, Seni Seviyorum by Rafet El Roman

- 12. What would be at the top of your mustado list before death?
 - a. Go to Paris or London and do whatever I want for the last time
 - b. Screaming down a deep cliff at the top of my lungs
 - c. Going to picnic with Al Pacino and his kids on a Sunday
- 13. What is your biggest obsession?
 - a. Brit accent
 - b. Hershey's Chocolate
 - c. Al Pacino
- 14. If you had a chance to choose a superpower, what would it be?
 - a. Time travel
 - b. Flying with wings
 - c. Reading minds
- 15. Where do you think is the most relaxing place on Earth?
 - a. Lake Como
 - b. Any Scandinavian City
 - c. Seychelles
- 16. What's your favorite Beatles song?
 - a. Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da
 - b. Hey Jude
 - c. Let It Be
- 17. What are your top three favorite books and their authors?
 - a. The Queen's Confession The Story of Marie Antoinette by Victoria Holt, Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen and the Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory
 - New York Trilogy by Paul Auster, A Million Little Pieces by James Frey, Happy Days by Samuel Beckett
 - Skeleton Crew by Stephen King, Mona Lisa Smile by Aldous Hugsley, 1984 by George Orwell
- 18. What's your favorite movie?
 - a. Pan's Labyrinth
 - b. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
 - c. The Godfather

Mostly As:

If you've answered the questions above with mostly As, that means you are able to let the delegates have fun and connect the officials' team and the delegates. Yes, that means you're perfectly capable of being a journo! You'll know all the gossips and the delegates' thoughts whilst you're best friends with the rest of the officials' team. Just be careful to take nice pictures and try to capture the funniest moments!



Mostly Bs:

If you've answered the questions above with a lot of Team Building! You'll mostly Bs, that means you're going to do be the one all the Officials' Team tries to entertain. Yes, you'll be perfect as a delegate. You'll be the one who doesn't write the newspaper but enjoys it, and also the one who talks in the GA! Be careful to follow the debate to save yourself from possible embarrassments!

Mostly Cs:

If you've answered the questions above with mostly Cs, that means you're going to be another member of the Officials' Team. You'll be like the ones who are always mentioned in the newspaper and also the one who can go and take a quick nap at the journo room, of course if the journos let you...Yes, you'll fit with the Chairs just perfect. We recommend you to be in good relations with your journo in order to take advantages of their room and also have fun and learn the gossips throughout the session.

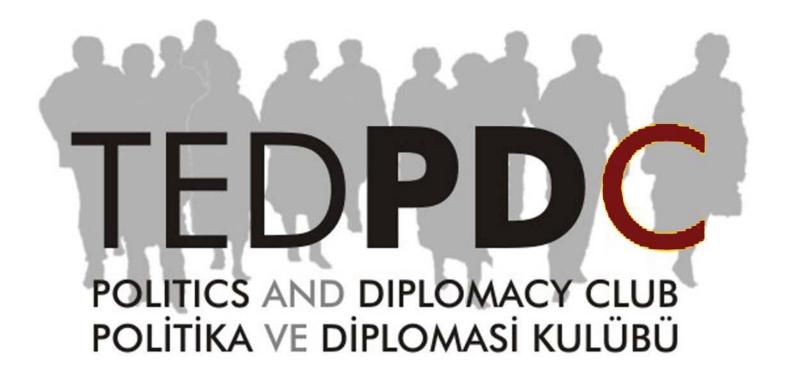








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gediz arınç irem bahar hazal batu olca gökcan gamze şayen kağan serenay ekin naz barış alca ezgi zeynep ü. başal aslıhan zeynep ü. burcu cem gediz arınç irem bahar hazal batu olca gökcan gamze şayen kağan serenay ekin naz l alca ezgi zeynep ü. başak aslıhan zeynep ü. burcu cem gediz arınç irem bahar hazal batu olca gökcan gamze şayen kağan serenay ekin naz barış alca ezgi zeynep ü. başak aslıhan zeynep ü. burcu cem gediz arınç irem bahar hazal olca gökcan gamze şayen kağan serenay ekin naz barış alca ezgi zeynep ü. başak aslıhan zeynep ü. burcu cem ged arınç irem bahar hazal batu olca gökcan gamze şayen kağan serenay ekin naz barış alca ezgi zeynep ü. başak aslıh

zeynep ü. burcu cem gediz arınç irem bahar hazal batu olca gökcan gamze şayen kağan serenay ekin naz barış alc zeynep ü. başak aslıhan zeynep ü. burcu cem gediz arınç irem bahar hazal batu olca gökcan gamze şayen kağan se ekin naz barış alca ezgi zeynep ü. başak aslıhan zeynep ü. burcu cem gediz arınç irem bahar hazal batu olca gökca gamze şayen kağan umut serenay ekin naz barış alca ezgi uut başak aslıhan zeynep ü. burcu cem gediz arınç irem hazal batu olca gökcan gamze şayen kağan serenay ekin naz barış alca ezgi zeynep ü. başak aslıhan zeynep ü. burc

gediz arınç irem bahar hazal batu olca gökcan gamze şayen kağan serenay ekin naz barış alca ezgi zeynep ü. başal aslıhan zeynep ü. burcu cem gediz arınç irem bahar hazal batu olca gökcan gamze şayen kağan serenay ekin naz b alca ezgi zeynep ü. başak aşlıhan zeynep ü. burcu cem gediz arınc irem bahar hazal batu olca gökcan gamze sayer