Agenda

Registration  8:00-8:30  Asheville Civic Center Banquet Room. Parking is available in the parking garage behind the Civic Center

Welcome and Logistics  8:45-9:15  Students will meet in small groups to discuss and fine-tune their legislation. The committee will then vote as to whether or not the legislation should be presented to the general assembly.

Committees Meet  9:15-10:15  Students will meet with other groups to lobby and gain support for their legislation

Lobbying Session  10:15-10:45

Plenary Session One  10:45-11:45  Present, debate, and vote on simulated legislation. (Moderated by Dr. C. Don Livingston, Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs)

Lunch  11:45-12:30

Plenary Session Two  12:30-2:00  Present, debate, and vote on simulated legislation. (Moderated by Dr. C. Don Livingston, Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs)

Break  2:00-2:10

Plenary Session Three  2:10-3:20  Present, debate, and vote on simulated legislation. (Moderated by Dr. C. Don Livingston, Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs)

“Charge” and Good-Byes  3:20-3:30  Dr. Gordon Mercer, Director, Public Policy Institute

Click here: For Summary of Legislation

Some results from the surveys:

Average Age of Participants: 15.6

Is Iraq safer after the American led invasion?  
63% No 37% Yes

Biggest problems facing America
1. Iraq
2. Global Warming

Legalize same sex marriage in the US?  
48% Yes 52% No

Approve of the way Bush is handling his job?  
74% No 26% Yes
Most admire person? (Five persons with equal votes)
Abraham Lincoln
George Washington
Martin Luther King Jr.
John F. Kennedy Jr.
Rosa Parks
note: only one vote for "the President"
Sample Legislations:

Click here for an example Legislation Proposal from North Buncombe High (2006)

Click here for an example Legislation Proposal from North Davidson High (2003)

Awards List for 2007 American Youth Congress

All-American Best Presentation: ....................
..................Cherokee Junaluska Council
..................Swain Middle School
..................Orton Academy
..................Hendersonville Middle School

All-American Best in Debate:....................
..............Christopher --Tuscola HS
..............Adam --Madison HS
..............Kaitlin --Swain MS
..............Elizabeth - T.C. Robertson HS

All-American Best in Legislation: ..........
.............Macon Middle School
.............Orton Academy
.............North Buncombe High School
.............Enka High School

All-American Best in Team Performance:
..................Owen High School
All-American Outstanding Lobby Award:

TC Robertson HS
Hendersonville Middle School

LBJ Job Corps
Orton Academy

All-American Best Organization Award:

Frank Wilson

All-American Youth Congress Award:

Enka Middle
North Buncombe High
Tuscola High
Erwin
North Buncombe High School's Education Committee Proposal

One of the biggest problems facing education in our state is the increasing need for more teachers in the upcoming decade. It has been estimated that over 10,000 new teachers will need to be found in order to keep up with the increasing number of students and retiring teachers. There is an effective and efficient means to an end on this issue. That solution would be to establish a lottery to fund teaching scholarships and teacher incentives.

After the lottery is established it should, of course, be run for a few years until it is decided that sufficient funds are being produced, that it is running smoothly, and to use the revenue to knock off the initial costs of establishment. In the first year of the lottery actually funding programs the revenue will be split in half (after expenditures are paid).

One half of the funds will go to improving the Teaching Fellows scholarship or any other teaching scholarship. This will serve the dual purpose of attracting more teachers to the possibility of teaching in a public school, and deterring businesses from hiring our teachers and paying off their scholarships for them.

The other half will go to teacher incentives which will be a four step process moving forward as the success of the lottery increases.

Step 1: Teachers of the year will be provided with a cash incentive that varied with the amount of funds left over. This will get more teachers more involved in the program and give new and experienced teachers alike a reason to find ways to improve their methods.

Step 2: Teachers will receive a bonus at the end of the year that varies on the success of the lottery in that year

Step 3: Teachers will get an increase in salary based on funds from the lottery.

Step 4: Teachers will get an annual pay increase for incentive to keep teaching longer.
Also included in this proposal was endnotes, a well written conclusion, related academic articles, statistics to strengthen their argument, and the following opening. The total report was 35 pages in length.

March 29, 2003
North Davidson High School

**Formal United States Proposal for withdrawal from the United Nations**

It has become evident through the course of recent events that the political motivations of voting members in the United Nations Security Council have rendered the authority and legitimacy of the UN to enforce and dictate resolutions inside of its member countries ineffective and obsolete. The importance of dealing with the problem of ineffectiveness inside of the United Nations can not be underestimated. Every year the United States contributes over 200 million dollars in UN dues. It is of no logical purpose for the U.S. to contribute hundreds of millions of dollars in our citizens’ money to an organization that does not represent the economic and moral goals and aspirations of the majority of Americans.

It is our intent to ask this representative assembly to in no uncertain terms sever all membership ties between the United States of America and the United Nations. It is also our hope that the United Nations will redirect its energies and find once again its original purpose which was to promote real peace, repress unjust governments, and make the world a more equitable place for all peoples. Should that happen, perhaps then the United States will feel that the United Nations is once again worth joining.

Implementation for such a proposal is not difficult.

Costs for this legislation would be no more than what it costs to debate and vote on the yearly budget in the Senate. In fact if this proposal passes we will save over 200 million dollars a year in revenue unused from United Nations dues.

It is important to weigh all of the facts when debating a matter such as this, and looking at the whole picture is an absolute necessity. That is why we have not just limited our search of inability to effectively govern to the present. The United Nations history for enforcing its mandates has been poor. For example: in 1967 the UN mandated that Israeli forces must withdraw from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Today they are still there, in direct defiance to the UN resolution.

Stefan Halper, a former White House and State Department official, is a nationally syndicated columnist.

1. There is no reliable way to determine whether the various and often competing specialized agencies are doing their job
2. An American withdrawal would almost certainly mean the collapse of the United Nations. Without the generous, if unwilling, support of U.S. taxpayers, the UN would face imminent financial ruin.

3. Recent and expensive peacekeeping failures in Angola, Cambodia, Bosnia, and Somalia have greatly fueled the discontent. Even the relatively successful operations in Mozambique demonstrated that various UN agencies are often shockingly incompetent. For example, the Office for Humanitarian Affairs Coordination managed to interfere with the work of other groups, with delayed unnecessarily the removal of land mines.

4. Any prescriptions for measured reform may well be much too little and much, much too late. After all, as members of Congress on both sides of the aisle well know, previous attempts at correcting the United Nations' many failings have come largely to naught. The most significant congressional effort at overhaul was the so-called Kassebaum-Solomon amendment passed in 1985. That measure required the United States to reduce its twenty-five percent share of the general UN budget to twenty percent unless a weighted system of voting on budget matters was introduced in the General Assembly. The legislation did spark some attempts at cutting spending and reducing the number of top administrators, but in general the United Nations has ignored or evaded the clear purpose of Kassebaum-Solomon.