Day 2

WHAT FOLLOWING YOUR HEART CAN DO

Zoya Salahudin
Park House English School

QLC day 2, when passion and spirit reach previously unattainable heights, Room 105 is already buzzing with enthusiasm. A throng people spill in from the doors, everyone excited to hear how they can work towards making a change, a feat only true leaders can accomplish. Jordan Hattar steps onto the podium, a smile immediately putting the crowd at ease, as he begins his presentation, titled ‘Voices of Syria’.

“Because when I ask Syrian people what they need the most, they say it’s someone to tell their story.”

He speaks of how his childhood was indirectly affected by Hurricane Katrina, news reports shocking him as he realised that disasters can hit fully developed, modern countries like America, causing suffering nationwide. This leads to him researching about crises affecting society on an international scale, and he is suddenly struck with a drive, the humane need to reach out and help those living he learns about, less fortunate lives. Soon he is told he cannot physically help the people.

“We are all part of the same shared humanity.”

continued on page 5

Maryam Aslam
American School of Doha

Diplomacy, quite bluntly, the art of dealing with people in a way where no one ends up getting hurt. At least, not hurt directly. Whether between delegates debating in a conference, or as diplomats negotiating international issues, diplomacy is vital. But to what extent can one be diplomatic while still being able to argue their point? At what point is diplomatic procedure a hindrance in Model United Nations?

Anyone who’s been an MUN chair or delegate knows the woes of parliamentary procedure; they have had to swap out their usual conversation cadences for more impersonal tones, as well as carve their arguments into meticulously itemized resolutions. Delegates, especially, might be familiar with the reprimand primed for anyone who loses their composure entirely: “Delegate, please maintain diplomatic decorum.” Still, these diplomatic procedures are essential to a solid traditional MUN debate; they help the chairs to maintain order and keep the debate

continued on page 6
PROVE WHAT YOU SPEAK

Rayan El Amine
American School of Doha

Part of what makes a conference like QLC go round is the ability for students to step up, and proclaim both their ideas and their understanding of MUN and the real world. Arnav Jain was both an exceptional example of this, and a terrific surprise to all those in attendance. As he spoke on the importance of a formal speech in MUN, on convincing a group of students to believe a certain idea and to speak with poise and passion for this idea, he not only held on to the standards that he spoke of, he went above and beyond.

One consistent theme throughout the piece had to do with confidence, and the importance of exuding confidence in spite of your worries. In a further display of humility, Arnav said, “It’s not easy being confident, nobody is ever really confident. I was beyond nervous when I started talking, but I lied to myself and made it in the end.”

Perhaps what was most striking about Arnav’s piece was his ability to engage his audience, it is often difficult to strike the balance between the formality of speaking at QLC and the ability to engage a large number of tired delegates. This, often is where adults at this conference seem to lose sight. Arnav, maybe due to his understanding of being a delegate at this conference, or maybe because he has a solid grasp of presentation skills, was able to conduct a powerful conversation on holding a crowd, persuading a crowd, and keeping them in the palm of their hand.

On a personal note, Arnav, or Rav as I call him for short, came out of his bubble and demonstrated an impeccable ability to show people both what he cared about, and why he cared about it. A good friend of mine for two years now, watching him open up like this was a blessing, and a gift for me to watch, and I believe truly demonstrates the skills that it takes to succeed in life, and at QLC.

OPIATE OF THE MASSES

Zoya Salahuddin
Park House English School

In an ocean of status updates, disappearing photos and news that spreads with the tap of a thumb, getting lost in a world between Insta gram photos and your dull, routine existence is almost natural. It is not rare for people to distort their realities with the perfect, untroubled life they live on social media. Frankly, it seems to have become the way people cope with their struggles: by vicariously living perfect lives through their social media profiles, they find solace outside of the chaos and stress in the real world.

A simple analysis of the mass media nowadays proves that exposure to it also contributes to our blurred perspectives. When you read a book, or watch a TV show, it is not uncommon for you to think of it as an escape; a way to pass time. It goes without saying, most of today’s generation turn to television when stressed, in order to pull them away from physical existence. In the words of Edward R. Murrow, “TV is the opiate of the masses.” The consequences of such a lifestyle being encouraged are severe - many may begin to view the virtual reality outside of their own as actuality. Some immerse themselves in a world of delusion and lies, unable to control their understanding of existence versus what we see on the big screen.

Verily, the concept of social media is enthralling; a pivotal phenomenon in technological development. While it is only natural to want to portray only the exciting aspects of our routinely lives on social media, we must be aware of our reality. What happens when we stop distinguishing real life from fantasy?
Of the many respected members of the presentation, few maybe as versed, and have as many man hours as the combination that was Gilberto Duarte and Kudzai Mukaratirwa. Often speaking on as complex and controversial a topic as “The Rule of Law”, especially as they link to the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of seventeen different goals reaching over 169 different topics regarding issues for the sustainable development of the world as a whole.

What was quite powerful, was their ability to connect both pop culture and pivotal, world altering decisions in a way that could both engage and keep the audience interested in a topic that could easily get muddled and lost. This began with a scene from the TV show, “13 Reasons Why”, and transitioned further into some existential ideas on law, the people, and how or why governments rule.

The Rule of Law placed itself as the opposite of this idea, a set of laws that exist in order to govern a people, regardless of their ideas, delegations or who they are. They began by establishing that laws need to be publicly available, prospective, understandable, consistent, possible to perform, stable, and enforced by the state. Where Duarte came in was through separating some of the myths that come with the Rule of Law. The first of which surrounded ideas of how Western principles dictate Rule of Law are. Discussing Ashoka, an Indian emperor of the Mauryan Dynasty, on how he changed to become more tolerant of his people. He continued dispelling myths by connecting numerous SDGs to The Rule of Law, specifically SDG 4, and SDG 16.

A collaborative group project brought further insight into how the Rule of Law works in the real world. Not only this, but in a display of Mukaratirwa and Duarte’s ingenuity, they added some social commentary onto the relationship between men and women, and the ridiculousness of sexism is a whole. By separating the women and men in a room into separate committees, and forcing the men to argue for their right to education, they forced every individual in that room to understand how difficult it is to not only argue for their rights, but also how important and difficult the suffrage movement was to the advancement of society as a whole.

Beyond relating the Rule of Law to broad subjects as a whole, Duarte strived to make a case for how The Rule of Law should be implemented into our daily lives. He strived to the necessity of Education, and how such an unbreakable fundamental law should not contradict the value of human lives, rather, it should seek to connect, implement, and further social life, versus the commonly held misconception that the laws as a whole seek to dictate social order and human life.

Duarte ended his speech by pushing students to take hold of the lives in front of them, to grab the presented ideas, to seek to understand what seems complex, and to know that the value of human lives will always, always push farther than the importance of social order. In that laws are created by humans, for the benefit of humans, rather than by humans, to control humans.
Exposure to media is challenging to avoid in these present times. With the fast-paced development of technology and ongoing world politics, it’s no surprise to see a device held in everyone’s hands. The older generation of our society is generally less prone to being affected by media, for they’ve lived the majority of their life with primitive technology and are more accustomed to it than today’s advanced digital world. Meanwhile, our newer generation has been exposed to advanced technology and media for most of their life and are consequently more affected by it. Media is a big part of our lives, and without it we feel lost and oblivious to what’s happening in communities and around the globe. Yet, there are both advantages and disadvantages of the youth’s fixation with technology and exposure to media.

The first advantage of media on the youth is that it raises awareness of the situations on the earth. While books raise awareness of situations in more depth, digital media is more updated on events. The youth gets to discover situations that are happening around the globe instead of the events taking place inside their home. It teaches them all the political, economical, environmental, technological, and military occurrences and news around the globe. There’s no doubt that media has also been teaching us the most fundamental pieces of our knowledge and skills, such as collaborating and engaging in online organizations, or the little comment threads and tweets about news.

Secondly, media gives us an opportunity to expand our social and communication skills. If some people are socially awkward, media will give them social support and will allow them to adapt to the society better. Hence, it will boost their confidence and encourage them to communicate their ideas, which is a skill that is beneficial in all areas. Plus, media allows us the connect with long distance friends and contact emergencies quickly, which shows that media is a crucial feature in our lives.

Despite the advantages of media, many disadvantages come with it. Firstly, offensive and violent media, which include video games and movies with scary genres, has made the depiction of violence normal for many children. This sometimes perplexes them and makes it challenging for kids to distinguish between the real world and fantasy world; hence, it makes them more prone to being aggressive.

Furthermore, media tends be very commercial these days. Companies aim at children and teenagers because they are innocent and are easier to manipulate. When youngsters see a new product, they believe that they must buy it in order to be happy. Thus, it makes them think that consumerism is happiness.

Another disadvantage of media is the physical and emotional pressure it implements on young people. Media networks create their own depiction of superficial beauty, which stresses young people out by convincing them that they must look like that model on the magazine cover, or else they’re not beautiful. This has led to youngsters, mainly teenage girls, into getting eating disorders such as anorexia or bulimia, and getting emotional breakdowns. Also, many children are so fixated with media that they don’t move around, which leads to the obvious case of obesity.

We can avoid the unpleasant effects of media by limiting ourselves to follow the type of media that will benefit us, such as educational or motivational sources. People need to identify what media is bad and good, and they need to control themselves so that they follow the type of media that is beneficial for them. In the end, avoiding media that will make us feel unworthy will serve us by putting less stress in our lives.
WHAT FOLLOWING YOUR HEART CAN DO

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Park House English School

That does not stop him. When I learn about how Hattar repeatedly attempted to work at a Refugee Camp in Syria organised by the UN, becoming a journalist simply to be permitted to do so, I am amazed by his incontestable perseverance and determination. To be wholeheartedly dedicated to such a tiresome and risky task, as well as to remember names, personalities and interests of each member of a family of refugees, as Hattar did, is something so painstakingly human - every member of the audience is deeply touched by his words. He shows us photos of people he has encountered, bringing to light how even refugees have personalities, and display generosity and hospitality despite their dire conditions.

“We are all part of the same shared humanity.”

After having worked with numerous influential people, such as Michelle Obama, Hattar maintains a mellow, kind-hearted nature; he speaks with the sincerity and fervour of someone who genuinely, earnestly cares. He tells the audience about a group of students in New York, who ran a fundraising project in order to buy caravans for refugees in Syria. Nonetheless, he points out that months of effort can buy only one caravan, and in the grand scheme of things, that is simply one drop in the ocean. A friend reminds him: “that one drop can be someone’s whole ocean.” He concludes by informing audience members how they can help: by following their hearts. When such a simple mindset can lead to such great opportunities, painted out by Hattar’s own example, it is essential that we do what is authentic to us - especially in a world where there are many people to tell us ‘no’.

“Sometimes, there’s just one person, and that’s you.”

HEAD OF ADMIN

Oroni Hasan
Qatar Academy

Nayef Al Obaidan, the head of the admins, has more than just responsibilities. He shares some of his background as a hardworking admin, obstacles he’s faced, his positive experiences in QLC, and some of the things he’s gained from this conference. Without Obaidan’s efforts to guide a smooth conference, we wouldn’t be enjoying QLC very much! Obaidan has been an admin for many MUN-related conferences, and is fully committed to his duties. He has faced the challenge of being involved in constant work and follow ups. Using his admirable organization skills and his natural leadership skills, Obaidan has also been able to guide the admin team, who are responsible for maintaining the order of the conference and assisting people around the building. He compliments the hard work of the admins and says that without their efforts and hard work, “no conference would be able to succeed so smoothly and precisely”. Furthermore, Obaidan also shares what he appreciates most about QLC. He admires the fact that people of all ages from so many different cultures and regions are able to present in this conference and teach us about their perspectives and experiences. The collaboration and exchange of ideas can teach us valuable lessons, and is what makes this conference so beneficial.

While Obaidan does enjoy his time in QLC, he mentions some of the challenges he has to face. He utterers about how being in charge of everything can be overwhelming. Preparing for the conference involves plenty of time management, organization, and planning. Being the Head of Admin is a lot of work, and we don’t blame him for feeling overwhelmed! Obaidan also mentions some of the benefits he’s gained from this conference. He mentions that he used to be shy and reserved, and that by being perseverant, he’s become able to gain more communication and leadership skills. He’s become more confident and decisioned during complex and irregular situations. With lots of personal experience in these kind of conferences, he’s become proficient enough to become Head of Admin, which we praise him for.
DIPLOMACY IN MUN - BENEFICIAL OR DETRIMENTAL?

Maryam Aslam
American School of Doha

On the other hand, it could be argued that the lengths needed to go in order to maintain diplomacy are not all that worth it. Diplomacy restricts those obligated to it to follow specific procedures and formats, which can force the oversimplification of arguments, and the inordinate formalities required of a diplomat can be exhausting to maintain. Furthermore, diplomacy, especially in MUN conferences, encourages that delegates should reach consensuses and seek to improve rather than reject. However, this somewhat dampens the vigor of debate, as delegates work sluggishly to improve resolution after resolution instead of ruling out good from bad. Although this does sometimes lead to more resolutions passing, it can lead to less ardent debate as delegates don’t have to really worry about outright rejection of resolutions. So, in the end, is diplomacy in MUN conferences more beneficial than detrimental? Tedious or not, the answer must be the former, not the latter. Diplomacy is a vital element of Model United Nations, maintaining the order of the debates and keeping discourses civil. It encourages professionalism and formality in delegates and chairs alike, and is what allows conferences to be truly successful.

CIVILIZED

Maryam Aslam
American School of Doha

These lines we cannot stop ourselves drawing to divide a breathing sum into parts we call redefinition as with each new division we rip ourselves further apart.

Our words are our sticks and stones flung high to scratch the thrones of great higher powers with faces like ours whose minds can never be known. We spin and whirl through endless space in which we seem to have no place and we wail and we claw at each fault and flaw we think we can replace. For all the things we take and give ourselves the least we should forgive but our beautiful ruins are what make us most human.

So live, and let live.
WORD SEARCH

EMPIRES
HISTORY
LEADERS
NATIONS
ORGANIZATIONS
PEACE

REFLECTIONS
RESOLUTIONS
SOCIETIES
TIME
UNITY

SUDOKU

MAZE