

# Saint Andrews Students Represent Ethiopia at Model U.N.

Photos by Dr. Larry Schulz

Ten St. Andrews students got a taste of international diplomacy at the National Model United Nations Conference held in New York City the first week in April. They were among almost two thousand participating in this annual event.

"The experience takes you beyond the perspective of a U.S. citizen to encounter the views and values of other countries," said Paul Gilbert, a junior politics major.

Karen Cole, a senior who has a thematic major in politics, psychology, and communications, also noted that "the conference provides one with a deeper understanding of the complexities in attempting to achieve consensus at the international level."

Each year St. Andrews competes with schools such as West Point, Princeton, Harvard, and the University of Pennsylvania, and schools from Canada, Puerto Rico, and Japan in the world's largest simulation of the United Nations. According to Gilbert, "One of the best parts of the conference is the interaction with students from over the country and the world."

Each school represents a country in its diplomatic positions on various issues which are debated in the United Nations. In past years, St. Andrews student delegations have represented Burma, Thailand, Saziland, Portugal, the Philippines, and Guatemala. This year, St. Andrews represented Ethiopia.

The ten students who composed the St. Andrews delegation were Reeta Roy, Craig Piccola, Eric English, Karen Cole, Paul Gilbert, Phyllis Helms, Dave Arnold, Paul Gilbert, Amy Heavner, Steve Maclin, and Dave Snyder. All of them belong to the St. Andrews Model United Nations club.

The club is open campus wide to students from a wide range of disciplines, who are interested in international affairs, and the work of the United Nations. This year's majors that were represented included politics, business, chemistry, and communications.

The club's faculty advisor, Dr. Larry Schulz, Associate Professor of Politics commented, "In order to be selected, students must have demonstrated strong records of academic achievement, and possess sound research skills."

"They must also have the ability to interact effectively in debating and negotiating sessions. They must be conversant with a wide range of international issues, and know the politics of many nations."

The St. Andrews delegation prepared extensively by researching the issues and Ethiopia's position on them. Several trips were also made to Chapel Hill's Davis Library which

is a United Nations depository.

Each student represents Ethiopia's view on a committee which debates certain issues pertaining to the nature of the committee and the interests of Ethiopia. Topics were discussed included disarmament, chemical weapons, economic development in Africa, refugees, population, apartheid in South Africa, and peace prospects in Central America, the Middle East, and Afghanistan.

Eric English, a senior and chemistry major worked on the Population Conference. He said that "Ethiopia is interested in controlling its population growth mainly to weaken the economic and food base of its rebel held territory. The socialist government is also fearful of outside interference in its population programs."

His committee had to produce a report of recommendations on a consensus basis. "If one country voted no, the entire recommendation failed. It was a great learning experience in group dynamics. I learned that people working toward a common goal caught up in political realities," he added.

Steve Maclin, a sophomore and politics major was in the Non-Aligned Movement. "I was exposed to the bond between developing countries as they struggle for self-sufficiency. These countries are committed to protecting their sovereignty and security," he said.

Another sophomore and politics major, Dave Synder represented Ethiopia on the General Assembly. His agenda, concerning peace prospects in Central America and Afghanistan, was highly controversial between the Eastern and Western blocks.

"I learned that diplomats of developing nations are very conscious of their country's image. A diplomat's reluctance to be associated with one of the world's antagonistic blocks seems to be as important as his or her country's position on an issue," he explained.

Having participated in the Conference on Disarmament, Dave Arnold, a sophomore and politics major mentioned that he "has come to have a greater sympathy for world diplomats. The ability to produce a document on a consensus basis is a testimony to cooperation and the spirit of compromise."

The highlights of the conference and the trip to New York included listening to a speaker from the United Nations, working sessions at the United Nations, simulating the various committee sessions, and visits to various attractions in New York city. The St. Andrews delegation also dined at an Ethiopian restaurant.

