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350 high schoolers at model UN meeting at U of Montana

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The University of Montana is hosting a three-day Model United Nations meeting for high school students Thursday through Saturday (April 9-11).

More than 350 high school students from throughout the state are participating in Model UN sessions in the Montana Rooms and Five Valleys Room of the University Center.

Doug Zimmer, Hot Springs, a freshman at the University who is chairman of the Model UN Economic and Social Committee, said the three-day meeting is conducted in as realistic a manner as possible.

"We deal with the world problems of today," said Zimmer, "and try to duplicate as closely as possible the actual governmental policies of the 74 nations represented at the three-day meeting."

Three committees--the Political and Scientific Committee, the Economic and Social Committee and the Special Political Committee--are dealing with individual agenda items, Zimmer said.

Among the topics being discussed are worldwide birth control, potential solutions to the Vietnam conflict, and consideration of the uses of outer space.

"Students from the respective high schools submit their own resolutions on these problems," said Zimmer. "The resolutions, once passed by committees, go before the Model UN General Assembly to be voted on."

Zimmer said the major issue confronting the Model UN General Assembly is whether or not to seat Red China in the Model UN.
The Model UN committee meetings begin at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. Friday, with an hour break for lunch at noon. The General Assembly meets all day Saturday. Highlighting Friday's events will be a dance for Model UN participants from 9 p.m.-midnight in the University Center Five Valleys Room.

There will be a banquet at 6:30 p.m. Friday for Model UN participants and their coaches in the Five Valleys Room.

The annual Model UN meetings are sponsored by the University of Montana Model United Nations group with funds from the Associated Students of the University. Zimmer said the meeting costs between $800 and $1,200 annually.