



Our Voices Resounding **THE DAILY GAVEL**

PANAMUN 30th Anniversary by EchoPress
Formatted by MarkCom

www.panamun.org

A New Beginning

October 21, 2022

Our data is more accessible than ever, should we be scared?

by Montgomery Lockwood



Artificial intelligence, also known as AI, is a phenomenon that has been around since the 1940s and ever since has had a notable grip on society. Despite some people's protests, it is near impossible to deny that artificial intelligence has allowed humans to advance further than we ever thought we would as seen with things like robots creating cars and doing other manual jobs that were once solely for humans. Nevertheless, a danger of this technological advancement is that it collects and stores data that's then kept in the (tech) cloud to study you.

At present, data collection is at its highest peak and as we progress more data will

be recorded from each person and stored in the cloud. For example things like facial recognition, fingerprints and handprints are things that are being used and stored more often in today's world. Data collection can be turned into something harmful and begs the question of what rights we as civilians have to protect our data, along with what technological companies are going with our data to begin with. Everyday millions of terabytes of data is collected by large corporations, governments and hackers which consists of information like what food you ate that day, your location, who you would vote for in an election, and more. This data is stolen by corporations without individual's permission and then sold to other companies thus allowing them to earn billions of dollars. Such data collecting violates multiple privacy laws, making countries like the United States of America worried as corporations collecting data could also collect things that are confidential and sell that to countries that are considered enemies of the United States: classified things that government officials discuss or information on people protected by the United States and information of federal employees.

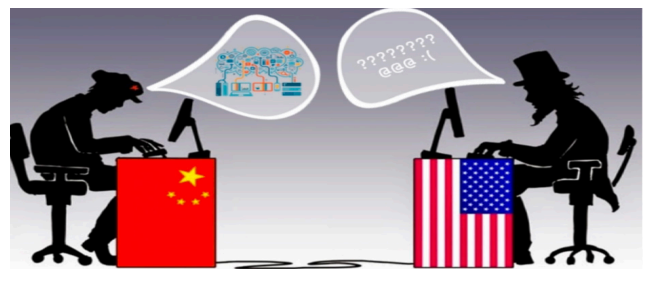
The issue of data privacy has been addressed in IGOs like the EU as they created and adopted the General Data Protection Registration (GDPR) in 2016 which applies to all the countries in the organiz-

ation along with all of the countries in the European Economic Area (EEA). The GDPR also affects U.S. companies and companies outside of Europe who operate in the EU such as Facebook, Google, Instagram, etc. The GDPR acts as an anchor and the main legislation for data protection in the EU. When the GDPR was being built Andrus Ansip, the Vice President for the digital single market stated "The digital future of Europe can only be built on trust. With solid common standards for data protection, people can be sure they are in control of their personal information." The GDPR limits companies outside the EU from stealing European citizens data, thus, if a European citizen is part of anything related to data collection, data selling or data storage the GDPR comes into play. The same applies for international instances as if a U.S. airline is selling services to someone out in the UK, although the airline is located in the U.S, they are still required to comply with GDPR because of the European data being involved.

The United States took a stance against data harvesting when Senator Hawely started to highlight the threats of Tik Tok and why the app should potentially be banned from the United States. Senator Hawely stated " Executives of Tik Tok will never come and take the oath and testify in public. That I think is unusual and I think it begs the question, what is it they have to hide?" He then continued to state "Tik Tok is owned by a Chinese parent company which has direct ties to the Chinese communist party". Under Chinese law Tik Tok is required to share data and information with the Chinese government. Senator Hawely was afraid that "Tik Tok" was a friendly face of Chinese data harvesting and believed that China was looking to have profiles on Americans and to collect information on individuals to use however they like. This fear

was created partly due to the Chinese government's cyber attacks on Equifax which takes and stores data on American peoples finance information and the cyber attacks on Anthem, one of the biggest health insurance agencies in the United States. To Senator Hawley this shows that China is trying to harvest as much information on Americans as possible and that they possibly will try to gain access to more information if both AI and data harvesting systems improve.

Ultimately the question is, should we be scared, and the answer is both yes, and no. On one hand, we should be scared because if we don't do anything about these issues then we could potentially lose our right to privacy and find ourselves in a '1984' type of world. Nevertheless, the reason we should not be completely worried is because we can fight against the breach of our privacy. A key way to help provide more privacy in the world of technology is to create more regulations on companies and to limit what companies are allowed to harvest from its users. Secondly, educating more students on the world of AI and the digital world is a great way to teach students and future generations on keeping your data private. Lastly, putting pressure on the world of advertising and pressuring the companies that advertise to do it in a way that complies with the regulations we create in the upcoming conference is a successful way to regulate data harvesting by AI. The phrase I like to use is, be alert, not anxious. Be aware of what's happening around you and do your best to fight for your rights.



			6	9		8		
	7	4		8	1	3	6	
8	1		7		5		4	
	8	5				7		4
2	3						8	6
4		9				5	2	
	9		5		3		1	7
	4	1	9	7		6	5	
		2		4	6			

Freedom of press and expression

by Eitan Naor

Asamblea Nacional's (AN) second issue refers to the freedom of press and expression in the republic of Panama. According to the issue bulletin, "Freedom of press and freedom of speech are fundamental building blocks for a vibrant democracy. These enable the citizens of democratic governments to freely exercise their political rights and utter their opinions. However, because of rapid technological advancement, ideas, and opinions are spreading more quickly and widely than they did in the past. This has several advantages for citizens since it makes it easier for information to flow and ideas to circulate, both of which are crucial in a democracy."

However, due to the guarantee of free speech, this makes it possible for false information to be spread with ulterior motives. The responsibility of the state is to defend its citizens against dangers to their physical safety as well as to their co-

nstitutional and fundamental rights, such as freedom of the press and speech. Along with this obligation, the state also has a responsibility to set boundaries on its power in this area in order to guard against abuses, maintain a free press, and allow individuals to express themselves freely.

In Panama, the liberty of expression is a right protected by the "Artículo 37 of the constitution". Panama's press freedom score is higher than the norm for Latin America, according to the Chapultepec Index. This does not imply that this right is always respected, though. The Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) highlighted their worry about the rise in civil litigation and legal actions brought against journalists in the nation in April 2021. Panama Model UN 2022 | XXX Annual Session The National Council of Journalism (CNP), the Forum of Journalists, and the Panamanian Broadcasting Association (APR) later gathered in December 2021 to discuss fresh concerns to press freedom in Panama. They identified flaws in the legislation that expose journalists to legal action or police assault in defamation situations. They also attacked rules that permit the theft of media assets using dubious justifications. Some members of these unions and the journalism community have raised concerns about potential legislative changes that might limit their profession and press freedom in general with the next presidential election less than two years away.

Marilyn E. Vallarino, Guillermo Rodriguez, states that, "she opposes the measures to limit freedom of press and freedom of expression, especially when it comes to instances of defamation." Marilyn Vallarino further declared that she will stay true to this statement no matter the cause, and she'll do everything in her power to ensure that no countermeasures will be

employed.

This debate unfolded in a heated manner with various parties opposing and agreeing with this statement. Marilyn as well as other delegates seem excited to debate their point and reach a favorable conclusion.



Spanish company plans to use helium balloons to take tourists to space

by Paula Morgan

The Spanish company, Zero 2 Infinity, made a demanding promise to ensure easier and cheaper space travel. The company's promise is to simplify access to near space and orbit through innovative technology. This would be accomplished through a giant reusable helium balloon with enough space for two pilots and four passengers and a large panoramic window. Zero 2 revealed this project, the "bloon" pod in 2009 as a cheaper and ecological alternative to space travel and it is still being developed to this day.

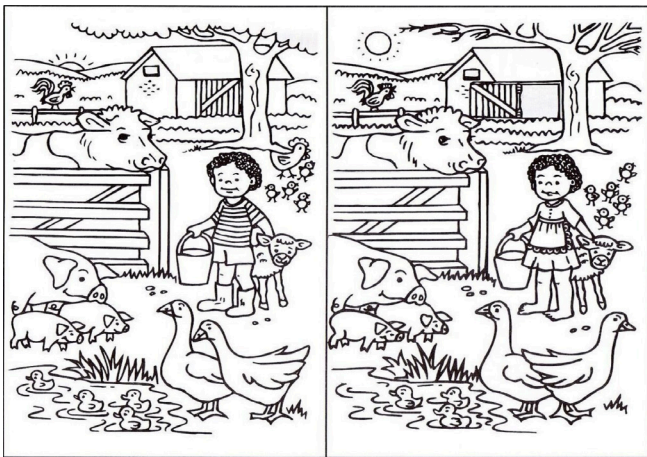
The topic of the Zero 2 infinity was mentioned by the delegate of Spain during the MS UNOOSA committee. If what the Zero 2 infinity project promises is true, this

could be a revolutionary change to modern travel and space knowledge. Not only would astronomers be able to collect rich data of space, but also allow space tourism to become a real thing. As of today, space travel is seen as a possibility only for big companies such as NASA and Tesla, but with the Zero 2 infinity, space travel can be more accessible. According to The Inceptive Mind article on the infinity project, the voyage would only take six hours with the commodity of a common airplane. The time would be divided in three hours of ascent, two hours of space watching, and a further hour on descent. The entirety of the two hours of space watching would be spent just above Earth's atmosphere, allowing the passengers to experience space, without entering into deep space itself. The trip should be a comfortable ride as the travelers would not require any special equipment or suit for the trip.

The delegate of Spain who brought the topic of this project, also mentioned the positive ecological considerations promised by the company. According to Zero 2, the balloon would get to the atmosphere with no polluting emissions, since its rocket powered phase would start above 95% of the atmosphere, getting there with no polluting emissions. This new method also allows the bloon to be launched at open seas, instead of the classic launch facility, enabling advantages such as less money spent and more flexibility on the location.

Although the company is still working on the project, there hasn't been major news from the balloon in recent years. The latest big updates on the project were in 2017, when the company sent a prototype of the balloon with a humanoid robot inside the capsule, launching it high up to 40km. There is not an official date for when the bloon will be availab-

le for public use. While it seems that space tourism has not reached public use yet, Zero 2 states that it hopefully will soon.



Addressing the legality of abortion, one step at a time

by Sebastian Perdomo

The Middle School Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) focuses on dealing with the legality of abortion in Day 2 of PANAMUN 30. More specifically, the issue to solve is how easily women can access the right to have an abortion performed and how safely they can undergo it, while still being able to live properly. These young delegates now have the task to develop resolutions for countries to adapt and solve these highly debated issues.

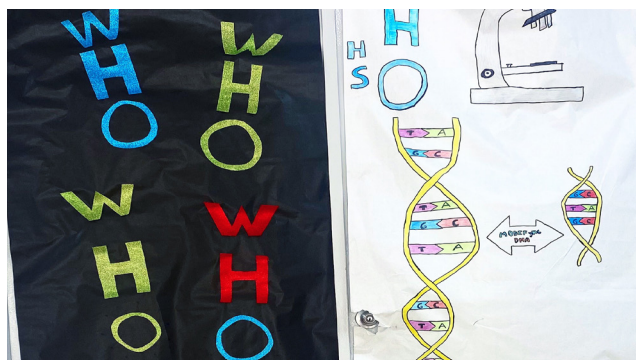
The committee was just finishing voting on a resolution that passed when all of a sudden the debating was interrupted by an incoming message from an unknown source. Their face was not visible, and their voice had a dark tone. They said that they were part of the terrorist group known as ISIS, and they stated how "They have control of all the most important abortion clinics around the world, and in five of those facilities, there are 5 bombs that will detonate in three hours. They will kill everyone in those hospitals. The group is willing to negotiate the deactivation of the bombs, and the demands are as follows: All abortion clinics must be closed down around the world. Two, make abortion itself illegal around the world. Three, institute a penalty for those that still wish to have abortions. If there is no answer, one of the bombs will go off. A middle ground can be reached for 2 of the three demands, but at least one of them must be met to its entirety. The members of the committee now have to develop a solution to solve this crisis while working with limited information".

There was only one resolution that passed, with the main submitter being Poland. The resolution had the main features of closing down all the abortion clinics, since the delegate of the United States who was explaining it further, feels that doctors can tell women how to perform the medical procedure at home. It also says that the penalty for those who still perform an abortion will be a 10% fine of the price of the procedure. Finally, it mentions that there are many exceptions in place for women that need abortions, such as rape, incest, poverty, minors which are expecting and many more. The delegation of Japan questioned if the terrorists were going to keep their word, and the delegates of both Mexico and Germany were in accordance. Nevertheless, the delegation of China believ-

ed that if the organization does not keep their word, the WHO will have at least taken action to solve the crisis.

While continuing the debate, the delegation of the United Kingdom decided to introduce an amendment which specified that women will be given video instructions on how to perform the abortion by themselves. Two speakers expressed their thoughts on it, with the delegation of Japan saying that women should know how the procedure works and what is actually occurring; Russia agreed on that perspective. Additionally, there were delegations who opposed the addition of the amendment, specifically France and Sweden. France stated that such a complex process like abortion cannot be described detaildly, as it could potentially cause more harm than good. Sweden supported this assertion aswell, as the delegate believes that telling a woman how to perform an abortion is an impractical action. After the speakers presented their arguments, the committee went to voting procedures, with the amendment passing due to an overwhelming majority.

Viewing the engaged participation of the delegates, it is definitely exciting to see what the next generation of diplomats and politicians bring to the world. If students from middle school are already handling complex issues like these, imagine what they will be capable of if they decide to continue on the path of diplomacy.



PANAMUN Word Scramble (Answer key on the next page):

SRCREATEY NLGAEER

AUNMANP

GGEBNNNII

PCRSESOEH

DOVE

CHIAR

TIMAPC

MSAAABSDOR

DTEELGA

NAIMD

BDTAE

ECNOCENREF

TMEETOMCI

KAMMORC

PMCLODIYA

SNGAE

President Biden states that Marijuana laws are not working as planned

by Paula Morgan

This October President Biden sent a pardon to all people convicted of marijuana possession under federal law and is urging governors to do the same. This event can be considered as "The most extensive White House action taken to date on U.S. drug policy", according to the Politico Newspaper.

Marijuana used to be considered an illegal drug in the US and was prohibited even for medical use until the state of California legalized it in 1996. Before 1996,

being caught with possession of cannabis would result in a first degree misdemeanor and the penalties included jail, probation, license removal, and being fired. After California legalized it, several other states began legalizing it as well and the penalties were lowered. Slowly the majority of the states have agreed on marijuana legalization, the last one to legalize it being the state of Mississippi this very year. The only states that have not legalized any sort of marijuana use are Idaho, Nebraska, and Kansas.

The legalization of Marijuana has benefited the United States to disband the Narcoculture. With the legalization, the cannabis product will lose some value in the markets, and allow people to get their product from legal and safe buyers. Statistics show that ever since the legalization, crime rates involving marijuana have significantly dropped to 68%, according to the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice. Nevertheless, people still argue that legalizing drug use won't stop the Narcoculture in selling their goods and say that the real solutions are the collaboration among law enforcement, health, programs, and social service agencies. During the CDN committee, the delegate Alejandro Caseres, who represents the United States, offered a preposition that was looking forward to establishing a program to combat narcotraffic in areas of poverty. While his preposition was sadly denied (very unjustly, according to him), it showed an interesting approach to the crisis, considering that the solution starts by offering enforcement to the lower classes first. This approach was backed by research brought up by the delegate that there is a correlation between the chances of substance abuse and individuals of lower economic status.

The United States is still questioning how to

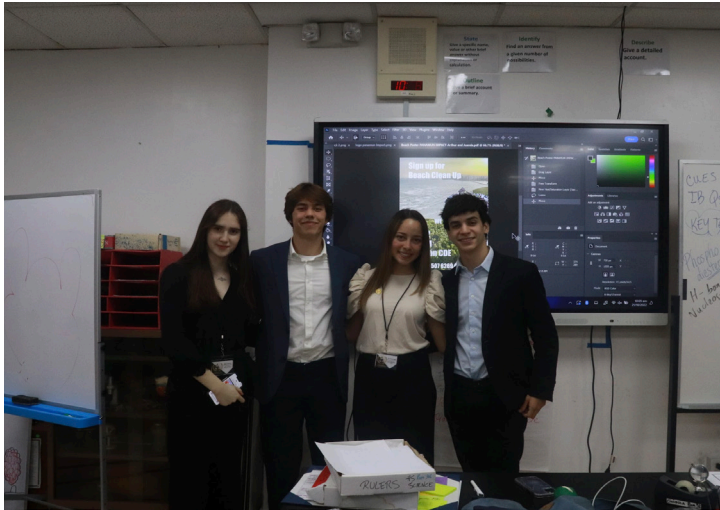
properly manage the marijuana use in their country, however President Biden has stated that "Sending people to prison for possessing marijuana has upended too many lives and incarcerated people for conduct that many states no longer prohibit." While the legalization has presented a decrease in drug related crimes and that it could help put a stop in the Narcoculture, the president is aware that criminal records for marijuana possession are still imposing needless barriers between employment, housing, and educational opportunities. He is currently planning to take executive action on the topic.

PANAMUN Word Scramble Answer key:

AUNMANP	PANAMUN
GGBNNNII	BEGINNING
PCRSESOEH	ECHOPRESS
DOVE	DOVE
CHIAR	CHAIR
TIMAPC	IMPACT
MSAAABSDOR	AMBASSADOR
DTEELGA	DELEGATE
NAIMD	ADMIN
BDTAE	DEBATE
ECNOCENREF	CONFERENCE
TMEETOMCI	COMMITTEE
KAMMORC	MARKCOM
PMCLODIYA	DIPLOMACY
SNGAE	AGNES

Some Pictures From PANAMUN Day 3

by Marina Aguiar, Simon Rodriguez, and Tiago Lemos



Head of ECHOPRESS | Kennedy Munson
Head of MarkCom | Su Young Cho