

Al Akhawayn Diplomacy Club, the newly-born student organization, is to organize a panel discussion on Moroccan legislative elections on Thursday, October 10 in Building 17 auditorium. National and international distinguished figures are to take part in the discussion.

Courant d'Art Steals the Show

Courant d'Art, the AUI art club, organized on October 1st and 2nd a craft fair at the University. Strategic as it was, the location of the exhibit played a significant part in the success of the fair. Two big tents were set up on the grass between Buildings 1 and 2. They served as galleries for the works displayed. Among the works displayed were traditional carpets, jewelries, drawings, and the like. Some 22 artisans and 4 painters took part in this event. They came mainly from Azou, Meknes; but also from places as far as Kalaat Magouna. In return, Courant d'Art benefited from 10 % of the sales made at the fair, Miss Hajar Mtahri, a leading member of the club, told *The AUI News*. "We don't know yet in what event we're going to put the funds collected," she said, "but one thing is for sure: we'll use that money to help organize the



Paintings were among the art works displayed at the fair

upcoming events such *Le Café Littéraire*, for example." The participating artisans were accompanied by members of Peace Corps.

The American volunteers' mission is to help artisans develop through marketing their products. Despite the rains the fair was a great success.

Gnawa on Campus



Students with the Gnawa band posing for pictures at the end of the show

AUI community had a rendez-vous on Wednesday, September 25 with a Gnawa show in the main auditorium. The show featured Mahmoud Guiniya and his band from Essaouira, considered the number one Gnawa band in Morocco. The show saw a big audience. Gnawa is a Moroccan traditional style of music with African origins. It is also the mystical music characterizing the Gnawa brotherhoods spread throughout Morocco, but mainly in Essaouira and Marakesh.

New President for HIH Association

Siham Malki, BA student, has been elected president of Hand In Hand Association in the General Assembly which was held on Tuesday, September 17. Siham joined the Association for the first time last year. She served as a Project Coordinator



Siham Malki, HIH new president

for Bensmime School for one year, and then as a HIH volunteer. The new president is an active member in the association. She took part in the big events organized by HIH such as Fun Run and academic support for *Dar Ettaleb* students. Siham is also a member of AUI women's basketball team. (See also page 4)

Also in this issue

Thinking Allowed

By Mohamed Chanaoui
page 9

Atlas "Cedracide"

By Peter Hardcastle
page 8

Restaurant: The Never-Ending Story

By Qods Benjelloun
page 9

Reportage about Students' Attitudes Towards the September 27 Elections
Page 13

The Other Side of the Ocean
Fatima Brown remembers when she first came to Morocco & talks about her personal experience at AUI.
Page 10

Interview with Dr Mohamed Dahbi, the New SHSS Dean
Page 11

Compliments and Complaints
A Study on the Student Perception of the AUI Services and Facilities
Page 14

AUI Rearranges Space Allocation

The University has witnessed recently a movement of space re-allocation. The departments that have been subject to this movement were given September 9 as a deadline to move to their new offices. The departments in question are as follows:

1. The department of Student Activities has moved to Room 110 of Building 2 next to the Student Publications Office.

2. The staff of Development and Communication have moved from the third floor of Building 4 to the room vacated by Student Activities (Room 101 Building 2) opposite Ms. Amy Fishburn's office.

3. VPAA's Administrative Assistants have moved from Room 102 building 2 (next to Ms. Amy Fishburn's Office) to an office in the space vacated by the Department of Student Activities in Building 4.

4. SGA have vacated their office in Building 11 and have moved to Room 102 in building 2 (vacated by VPAA's Administrative Assistants).

5. The office that used to be occupied by SGA in building 11 has been assigned to the Director to the Institute of Economic Analysis and Prospective Studies.

6. Human Resources have moved to Room 111 in Building 2 (opposite DSA's office).

By Mouaad Ibriz

It was on Thursday, August 27 that AUI received its new students for the Fall 2002. For the sake of facilitating the integration of the new students in their new environment, the administration organized a long but interesting orientation program. Generally speaking, the orientation week was great despite the fact that some newcomers didn't show up.

The first day of the orientation, Thursday, August

29, was dedicated to the registration and payment. Like the previous semesters, the day was the most tiresome; but that is the way it is. After getting their room keys, the new student can say, "I made it; I'm officially an AUI student". The real job started on the second day. Having spent a beautiful night in their new rooms, the newcomers and the Orientation Leaders (OLs) met in front of the restaurant. Friday's orientation program included a general campus tour of the University starting from the post office, whose staff member we didn't find, to the sport's complex passing, of course, by the library and the much talked-about restaurant. The funny thing was that they have started to complain from the food since the first day. One wonders what they will do in Ramadan? Even tired, the Orientation Leaders and newcomers met in front of the restaurant. Saturday, August 31 was the big day. The program consisted of various meetings. Newcomers met, for example, with Dr Raissouni, Dr Belfekih, etc. However, there was something new and extremely interesting about this semester's Orientation: the task force



Fall 2002 Orientation Leaders with President Benmokhtar

on sexual harassment. The speakers explained efficiently to the students the problems that they might face inside or outside the University and whom to contact, etc. That was very nice on their part. The last day was a little bit softer than the previous ones. The newcomers split into groups depending on their schools and had a nice discussion with their professors. They had to split another time according to their major. Every academic matter was well explained. Thank you professors! In the afternoon, OLs, with their little resources, managed to take the new students downtown for a tour and then went to a cafe. It was really a nice evening.

Without the Orientation Leaders almost nothing could have happened as easily as it was. Just for information, the orientation Leaders don't participate in events like this one for something in returns. In the contrary, it's a pure voluntary work to ease the integration of the new students. Thank you all!!!

THE AUI News

Editor-in-Chief:

Qods Benjelloun

General Supervision:

Mohamed Ouakif

Editorial Team:

Mara Barrow

Fatima Brown

Mohamed Chanaoui

Mouaad Ibriz

Taoufik El Ouali

Photography:

Faiçal Jamil

Said Belhaj

Layout:

Mohamed El Khayati

Logo:

Salah-Eddine Benjelloun

Scanning

Quadrechromie

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Imprial

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American Teachers Visit AUI

By Mohamed Ouakif

A group of American high school teachers, mainly from the state of Arizona, visited Al Akhawayn University on July 10. Organized by the Center of Middle Eastern Studies and sponsored by Fulbright Program, Their visit to Morocco constituted a part of a vast project which started two years ago with Teach Syria and Teach Turkey, two programs that aim at opening up to the world and knowing about the other countries' educational systems as well as their cultures and civilizations. The program's objective is to develop curriculum programs in Arizona. This year a new program was initiated: Teach Morocco.

During their stay at AUI, the group attended a lecture by Dr Michael Willis on Islamic movements in North Africa. Later on in the day they met with Hand

in Hand members and were given an overview of the activities and projects of the association. Dr Michael Bonine, professor of Geography and Director of the Middle East Studies Program and the Middle East Center, had a meeting with Dr Driss Ouaouicha, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mrs Amy Fishburn, International Programs Director; and professors regarding programs of common interest.

The 12-teacher group stayed in Morocco for a month during which they visited Moroccan cities namely Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakesh, Essaouira, Taroudant, Agadir, Ouarzazat, Fes, Tangier, Chefchaoun, Ifrane. In these visits they held meetings with Moroccan counterparts, and attend lectures on such issues as Morocco, Islam, cultural traditions, etc.

The group was accompanied by no other figure than Aomar Boum, the



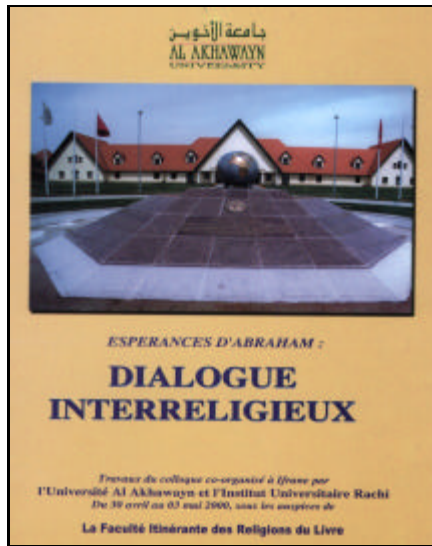
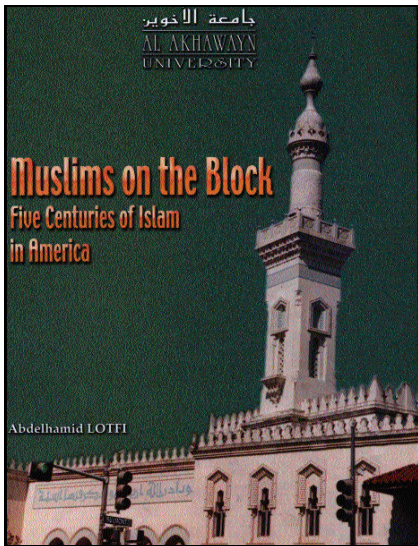
Aomar Boom

former editor of *The AUI News*. Aomar, along with Michael Bonine and Becky Shulies, was the leader of the program. Aomar is currently doing his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Arizona with which Al Akhawayn University enjoys an exchange agreement.

AUI Publishes Books

Al Akhawayn University has recently published a number of theses and research papers, most of which are by AUI students. The published works range from science to humanities. According to Mr Aziz Rami, the VPAA Administrative Assistant, the new publications are to be put on sale soon around Morocco. The published works are as follows:

- Muslims on the block* by Abdelhamid Lotfi
- Dialogue Inter-religieux* - Conference proceedings.
- Assessing tourism in Essaouira* by John Shoup, Eric Ross, Abdelkarim Marzouk & Driss Maghraoui
- Essaouira: Economics and Impacts of Tourism* by Ahmed Driouchi, Moha-



- med Derrabi & El Mustapha Azelmad
- Adult Literacy Programs in Ifrane: A case study of problems, prospects and future challenges* by Mourad Mjahed
- Analysis of Bad Loans in Morocco* by Hadj Driss Benchaib
- A Fuzzy Data Mining System* by Sidi Ali Mailainin
- The Impact of Tourism on the Attitudes of the Residents of Marrakech* by Maria Cheggour
- Securitization: A Descriptive Overview and Applications in Morocco* by Ilias Benmoussa
- A Multi-agent Search Bot System for Electronic Commerce* by Asmae Mourhir
- The Sirah of Antar: An Islamic Interpretation of Some Aspects of Arab and Islamic History* by Jaafar Ksikes
- Towards Building H.323-Aware 3G Wireless Systems: Control Loops in H.323-based Multimedia Networks* by Kaoutar El Maghraoui
- Building an Image: Al Akhawayn University's Image of Academic Excellence* by Madiha Belaoula
- Microfinancing, the Poor, and Sustainable Economic Development: the Case of Morocco* by Fatima-Zohra Alaoui Moustain

General Faculty Meeting

It has now become a tradition. Like the previous semesters, On Tuesday, September 24, AUI held a dinner in honor of the new faculty who have joined the University this term. They are some 16 professors from different nationalities: Morocco, the United States, Senegal, France and Madagascar.

The dinner was preceded by a speech by the President, Dr Rachid Benmokhtar, in

Bldg. 4 auditorium. Dr Benmokhtar welcomed the new faculty members and wished them a good stay in Morocco. In his address, President Benmokhtar talked about the achievements that have been attained so far and the assigned objectives that should be achieved.

Following that, faculty and invitees met at the Ifrane School where the dinner was held.

Books Issues

By: Qods Benjelloun

Students raise many questions regarding the University book policies. According to Amine Chabi, SGA President, suggestions and questions concerning this issue were submitted to Dr. Belfekih, Dean of Student Affairs. The first request relates to adopting a "buyback" policy as it is the case in American universities. That would make it possible for students to sell their used books to the University. In return, the University would make used books available to students who would like to get them at cheaper prices.

A suggestion was also made to organize a sort of informal "book exhibit" where students can exchange books and bargain prices. Unfortunately, this proposal is not realizable at our University for two main reasons. The first one being an "Edition" problem. Authors tend to

publish new editions of their works very often either for content updating or simply for marketing reasons.

The second reason is simply the fact that some students would rather keep all their books than sell them, and since the number of students is not very big, not many used books will be available for other students. Besides, the University should keep track of the number of books needed every semester so as to order them from the middleman who bring the books from abroad. It is true that some book prices may seem high, but the University is keen on concluding the best deals with middlemen. Another important point is that if there were more than the two higher education institutions existing in Morocco, whose language of education is English, maybe we would have a lowering of price with a rise of quantity.

Thumb's UP! Thumb's DOWN!

Women in Black: we are proud to have the other gender represented within the Security Department.

Men in Grey: security agents benefited from one-month training in the Kenitra Police School.

DVD movies broadcasting in black and white: It is a pity not to enjoy new movies in their full colors! It seems that we may need multisystem TV sets...to be continued.

Security gate in the library: We finally have an electronic security gate just as in other prestigious universities. We have finally got rid of the displeasing "signing-in" process.

Restaurant: you might have noticed that. Restaurant Staff now wear name tags. Professionalism is always welcome!

More investors and tourism projects targeting Ifrane: are we moving towards prosperity, or just losing the most quiet and cleanest city of the country?

Shame on some Moroccan immigrants: Many of us witnessed or experienced their crazy driving, and their disrespect of lines in supermarkets. It seems they forgot good habits in their host countries...

New Appointments At AUI

AUI has witnessed lately new appointments, especially at the administration level. Key positions such as the Dean of SHSS, ITS Director and Grounds and Maintenance Director have been finally filled after being pending for a while. One must say that the new appointees are people with a great experience in their fields. We wish them luck in their duties.

Dr Mohamed Dahbi was appointed a Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS). Dr Dahbi is holder of Ph.D. in linguistics from Georgetown University.



He is also the president of the Moroccan-American Commission of Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE). He joined the University at the start of the present semester. He can be joined at ext. 2025. (See interview on page 11)

Mr Tarik Janati is the new ITS Director. He joined AUI on August 26, 2002. Mr Janati is a Networking and Telecommunications Engineer from E.P.S.I de Montpellier, with 8 years experience in consulting and network architect-



ture, installation, management and security. The ITS Director can be reached at ext. 2402

Mr Omar Balafrej was appointed Director for the Grounds and Maintenance Department. He is also the Project Manager of the future AUI Technopark. Mr Balafrej is a general engineer from Ecole Centrale de Lyon. He was the manager of Casablanca Technopark before joining AUI. Mr. Balafrej can be reached at ext. 2638.



Where to go?

By Zainab Begdouri Achkari

As we came back for the fall semester this year to our "prestigious" university that we missed during the whole summer, we discovered that many changes happened in the library.

The first one was the new system that was established. What a great improvement! Finally we can enter the library without following the boring process of:

1. Removing our books from our bags.
 2. Standing in a line to sign.
 3. Getting our numbers.
 4. Putting one ticket in our bag and the other in our pocket.
 5. Then, OUF! At last! Getting access to library space.
- The new electronic security system was really a good

requires sharing opinions and thus speaking loudly? Where can we be allowed to eat and study at the same time? Teamwork is essential in almost all our courses since our university is following the American system. Didn't the administration think about keeping a space for facilitating this advanced way of education? It is impossible to talk in the library. As soon as you open your mouth, you get surprised by a security man asking you to "shut up!" because there are other people working. The alternative solution that was given was to go to an empty classroom and to do the teamwork. But are there classrooms that are available at 11.00 am or 3.00 pm? The solution is to go to the room of the teammate that has a single room or a



The library's new electronic gate

idea to make us feel comfortable (it is true that technology makes life easier) and to protect books inside the library, that I guess, feel more secure in their shelves and thus more useful for all AUI community.

The second change was that library extended to the second floor. As we state it this way, it seems to be wonderful! More space, why not? But when we find out that the reading room has disappeared, we start to ask questions. Where can we do our group work that

roommate that is always absent. Difficult to find, isn't it? But it is a solution if the group comprises one gender. But what if the group includes males and females? Where to go? To sit on grass that is forbidden? On the cafeteria that is noisy? On the game room that is crowded? Or do their work while walking around the university? Solutions for this problem should be found as soon as possible. All our hope is in the administration.

AUI Organizes the Arabic Summer Program



In Merzouga dunes

By Wadia Ait Hamza

The summer session was a relaxing time for some but a tedious one for those who took the summer session, particularly the Arabic summer program students. From June 1 to August 26, some 40 international students, mainly from the United States, came to Al Akhawayn University to learn Arabic and know about the Arab culture, in general, and the Moroccan one, in particular. They came from such universities as Arkansas University, George Washington University and Brown University.

Divided into 3 levels (beginning, intermediate and advanced), the participating students registered in the program either because of their majors in the sending universities or for a personal desire to learn the language. This intensive program was the equivalent of one year of regular, as opposed to intensive classes. The students spent 8 weeks at the University, 5 hours in classrooms each day and more than 4-hour homework, either in the ASAS (Arabic Self Access), in the Audio Lab or in the computer lab for practicing typing Arabic. In addition, they used to eat in the Arabic restaurant,

and the most important thing about this is that they signed a pledge not to speak any language except Arabic from 8 in the morning till 2 in the afternoon. To remind them of that, notices were posted in the restaurant. One of them read "*huna natakallam lughata larabiyata faqa!*" (Here we speak only Arabic). Such programs help foreign students better know Morocco. The trips to the different destinations (Fès, Meknès, Marrackesh, Merzouga, etc.) on the weekends helped them practice their Arabic and immerse in the Moroccan culture through bargaining, mingling with people from

different backgrounds, visiting historical sights, etc. That is why a class of Moroccan Arabic was offered each Monday and Wednesday for interested students.

Another program is also offered by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. This one has nothing to do with language. It is offered to students who are interested in the culture and history of North Africa, especially Morocco.

The success of the program was due to the unflinching efforts of the SHSS faculty as well as students whose discipline and hard work turned the program into a success.

HIH Elects New President

By Qods Benjelloun

On September 17, the Student Activities Office hosted the first Hand In Hand General Assembly of the year. What was special about this meeting is that it saw the election of the new board. Nearly 25 participants attended the meeting, including staff and faculty. A few newcomers attended the meeting too.

After an overview of the association's activities and objectives by Mrs. Benmokhtar, the association's advisor, handouts carrying positions' description and requirements were distributed to all participants. Miss Mounia Tagma, HIH outgoing president, devoted to the association's cause until the last minutes of her presidential term, along with Mrs Smith

and Mrs Benmokhtar, provided more details about the electoral process. HIH elections' regulations provide that only students are allowed to vote; staff and faculty are not. In addition, students who have not been previously involved in any of the HIH activities as volunteers or members have the right to be nominated for some positions, but cannot vote. Finally, some positions require at least one-semester seniority within the association, or that the candidates must have passed at least one course of accounting as in the case of the treasurer's position. The candidates for the position of president were Khadija Idrissi Janati and Siham Malki. Khadija, the former vice president of the association, was asked to talk about her motives, about what would make her presidency special, and about whether she will be able to reconcile her studies with her HIH responsibilities. "I

think that being a vice president or a president doesn't make much difference since they both involve a lot of work", Khadija said. Siham was not able to attend the meeting because of a make-up class, and was represented by Ms. Ibtissama Sebti, Dr Hicham El Barri, and other members of the association who know her through HIH activities. As far as the remaining positions are concerned, the candidates had also to introduce themselves and speak about their motives.

The vote was processed by raising hands and candidates were asked to leave the room during the vote. Siham Malki was elected president of the association for the new term. All other positions have been filled during the meeting except secretary and treasurer's that will be filled later on. Congratulations to Siham, and may the new term be as successful as the previous ones.

An Unprecedented Trip

By Brahim Ait Ouzineb

As it has always been their habit, the Explorers Club faithfully is there to entertain and introduce the AUI community to the surroundings of Ifrane. Anyone who comes the first time to Ifrane notices that there is something special about this place. As a faculty member said, "this city has something strange about it; you feel not in Morocco." Once you cross the welcoming trees, the scenery is captivating and breathtaking. As we dig deep into these woods we explored *Rass El Ma*



with its adventures. Though we walked 26 km which is strenuous but we never stopped to complain about tiredness but to enjoy every part of that beautiful nature which is put aside in big cities. This is starting to spread in Ifrane as well and those who have been here for long would ascertain what I

said. For the newcomers and lovers of nature, there is no end to the beauties of Ifrane and its regions.

Consistent with its tenet of unveiling the beauties of the place and to help the newcomers, be they students or faculty, merge with our world, the Explorers Club thought about going to Fez. An email was sent about the trip; but unluckily the response was late. In our university either the people do not check their emails at all or they are infected by the fake political promises. We got thirty responses but in the D-day only ten showed up. The start was disappointing but our ambition to

make of the trip a success exceeded these stumbling blocks.

The trip was launched at 8:30 am. Once we left the main gate

the outer oxygen cuddled our faces. The feeling was delightful. The routine is sure to change for once. The class, room, restaurant course is broke and taking the van to go for a distance and embrace the beauty of our nature is a sought and welcome substitute. Once in

Fez, the process of introducing each other and thawing the ice prove time taking at the start but the presence of some elements who were used to such situations eased everything. Here, I would like to stop and pay tribute to Mr Khalid Ghazala (the Never-Say-Die man) whose devotion and love of adventure are fascinating and keep our spirits high. Gradually as the small streets, the smells, the architecture and the looks of people brought up questions to discuss and talk over.

Fez is known as a city that hides its beauty in its numerous subways so it imposes secrecy on you. No sooner that you probe it deeply that it unearths its beauty gradually and mesmerises you just like a fairy. The different and unfamiliar colours keep you taken in so much that your guide no matter how experienced he is fails to tame your desire to satiate your hanger of this beauties. The small streets show how sociable those people are and how they provoke you into easily merging with them. You cannot cross a street without touching someone or bumping into a merchant or a passer-by. You feel as you go deep into the city that it is not only 9 centuries old but it has the touch of so many great men. At every curve, you smell and touch the prints of sultans and persona that adored beauty and paid

attention to every detail looking for the ideal city. We get into Medersas (Coranic Schools) where students used to live and which surround somehow the Karawiyn.

Alas the majority of them were being reconstructed and I guess it is a long started project not just due to the dawn of elections. As we get out of the Boujloud Door, we realize we have been in a kind of dream. We were in a place totally different from the outside. We have been in a place though boisterous extraordinarily calm; though crammed seems so spacious; simple but so loaded with history. It is clear that each wrinkle in the old Medina's face is telling a story whose facets we can never comprehend.

However, there is always a however. I was personally shocked by the fact that kids were employed in the artisans and merchants' shops extensively. There are also several kids who propose themselves as guides. It is surprising that the authorities boast about the way Imperial cities are administered which is a total heresy. Equally shocking is the huge number of



beggars of all ages who disturb anyone by sending their kids to snatch the passers or possible tourists by their pants refusing to let them loose until they pay a dirham or two. The absence of places where to eat traditional but clean food at moderate prices just like Jam3 El Fna is also a nuisance.

After surrounding all these beauties explored what we had to explore, we came back with something different. The ties between us have become tighter and at last we know each other's names. The ritual of "Maloui" and "Tea" down town was respected as usual. The destination again is the Al Akhawayn University whose staff and executives allow this meeting to happen between such diverse culture holders. The Explorers are back again to their work waiting for the coming trip which will not take long to see the light; has such spirit of unity and ambition subsisted.

New International Students Join AUI

Some 31 international students have joined AUI this semester. They have come from different universities and are spread over the three AUI schools. We wish them success in their studies and a nice stay in Morocco.



International students with AUI president

Angele Rozan from the Autonomous University of Barcelona

Lidia Solana De La Cruz from the Autonomous University of Barcelona

Kate Walters from the Appalchian State University

Violette Davis from Beloit College

Jennifer Johnson from Brown University

Nadine Miville from Dalhousie University

Katherine Patterson from Connecticut Wesleyan

University

Amira Sedki from Eugene Lang College

Hughes Tyrell from Johnson C. Smith University

Leia James from Johnson C. Smith University

Yuka Hiramatsu from Kansai Gaidai University

Kenichi Inamuro from Kansai Gaidai University

Robert Birnecker from Kufstein Tirol

Dhuan Abdullah from Lincoln University

Sophie Reuning from Marquette University

Brent Rough from Montana State University

Aaron Lovjoy from Montana State University

Luke Wilson from Montana State University

Victoria Zyp from Rice University

Phillipe Blanchot from Sciences PO

Marguerite Capelle from Sciences PO

Meri Lasarov from University of Joensuu

Jennifer May from University of Montana

Arianne Margolin from University of Montana

Fatima Ifssate from University of North Florida

Sarah Swick from University of south Carolina

Bettina knauer

Taylor Heard

Heather Homonoff

Jane Leeke & George kleuser

AUI Signs Memorandum For Cooperation With ISU

AUI Board Room witnessed September 25 the signature of a memorandum for cooperation between Al Akhawayn University and Indiana State University. The ceremony of signature was presided over by Dr Rachid Benmokhtar, AUI President, and Dr Lloyd Benjamin, Indiana State University President. The signature was attended by officials from the two universities.

The agreement for

cooperation between the two institutions in the fields of common interest, namely exchange of faculty, administrative personnel and students.



ISU president, Lloyd Benjamin, and AUI president, Rachid Benmokhtar, shaking hands after signature

New Faculty Join AUI

Language Center

Mohammed Azhari, B.A., Moroccan, teacher at LC

Mark Bernstein, M.A., American, Lecturer at LC

Amy Sniffin, M.A., American, Lecturer at LC

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Lynne Dahmen, Ph.D., American, Assistant Professor at SHSS

Khadija El Arkoubi, M.Sc., Moroccan, Lecturer at SHSS

Said Graiouid, Ph.D., Moroccan, Adjunct Faculty at SHSS

Susan Shaefer Davis, Ph.D., American, Part-Time at SHSS

School of Business Administration

Pascal Clerotte, MBA., French, Lecturer at SBA

Assane Diagne, Ph.D., Senegalese, Assistant Professor at SBA

School of Science and Engineering

Majid Bejjaji, M.Sc, Moroccan, Lecturer at SSE

Hicham Bouzekri, Ph.D., Moroccan, Adjunct Lecturer at SSE

Omar Iraqi Houssaini, M.Sc, Moroccan, Adjunct Faculty at SSE

Hind Kabaili, Ph.D, Moroccan, Assistant Professor at SSE

Abderrahim Khadir, Ph.D., Moroccan, Adjunct Faculty at SSE

Mangatia Robdera, Ph.D., Malgasy, Assistant Professor

Center for Academic Development and Skills

Samira El Atia, Ph.D., Moroccan, Assistant professor

Typical Lecture on Moroccan Electoral System

By Mouaad Ibriz

Nearly 60 people, staff, faculty and students included, attended what was supposed to be a debate on the Moroccan elections. The presence of eminent persons from the University such as Dr Belfekih, Dean of Students Affairs, and Dr Dahbi, the new SHSS Dean, was highly appreciated. As was announced, the debate started at 6:10 pm with a short introduction of the lecturers and the different parts of the "debate". The speakers were Ph.D. people from the University: Dr Carlos Conde, Dr Michael Willis and Dr Driouchi who are well-versed in the topic under discussion: the elections in Morocco.

As was mentioned earlier, Dr Willis started the "debate" with an overview of the detailed perspectives and organization of the 2002 elections. Dr Conde, in his turn, tackled the issue of the new electoral system and the list system. In addition, Dr Willis talked about the electoral process. Dr Driouchi touched on the hot issue of distribution of seats in the parliament derived from the numbers of votes that each party gets in the elections. The



Dr. Carlos Conde (right) giving a talk on Moroccan Elections

presentation was illustrated by slides that showed the "easy" mathematical formula necessary for that complex calculations. Last but not least, Dr Willis tackled, in his turn, the matter of political parties; their ideologies which are almost the same. He talked especially about how the new symbols helped overcome the problem of illiteracy while giving its precious voice for a given party. Finally the much talked-about "debate" ended

with a "FAQ" session, where the audience was free to ask questions to the participants except to Dr Driouchi who had left before (?). The "debate", I think, would have been better if it had taken place in the main

board room in building 1 and to start by asking the audience what they want to know to see their needs instead of giving facts that the majority already knows.

AUI Signs a Cooperation Agreement with Meijo University



Dr. Masaki Aminaka and Dr. Rachid Benmokhtar signing the agreement

On September 30, AUI signed a cooperation agreement with Meijo University, Japan. The ceremony of signature, presided over by AUI president, Dr Rachid Benmokhtar, and the president of Meijo University, Dr Masaki

Aminaka, was attended by officials of the two universities as well as Moroccan and Japanese exchange students. The agreement provides for cooperation between the two universities in the field of academic exchange.

NOUVEAU À IFRAN

DOCTEUR A. LOUKILI

À LE PLAISIR DE VOUS ANNONCER L'OUVERTURE D'UN CABINET DE CHIRURGIE DENTAIRE À IFRAN

RÉSIDENCE du BOLING

EN FACE du COMMISSARIAT D'IFRAN

Sur rendez-vous
GSM : 061.21.64.41

Africa From the Heart

By Qods Benjelloun

Wednesday, October 2. Even though only 15 persons attended the presentation that started at 9.00 pm, the atmosphere was quite nice and cozy since we have all gathered around the famous photographer, Jennifer Parker, in an informal group talk. Besides being a remarkable photographer, Jennifer Parker turned out to be also an excellent narrator who captured the audience with her gentle voice, and her fabulous little stories. Jennifer is from Oklahoma and has 11 years of experience in photography. She made an amazing career switch after 7 years working in the environmental sciences field, during which she started to feel miserable. She made some successful attempts in photography. She ended up winning 6 awards in a

national American competition, and even started to run a prosperous business. In spite of this success, Jennifer always had a dream: to visit Africa and to see baby elephants. Her dream soon became true when a mission to Africa accepted her services as a volunteer photographer. Jennifer then shared with us her amazing journey in Africa. It was an overwhelming moment that her eyes were filled with tears, especially when narrating the part where she first saw baby elephants. "Shooting pictures and raising funds for missions is my way to contribute to society through my passion," Jennifer said. After the talk, we watched a slide show projection of her pictures, enjoying the African music background, amazed by the beauty of natural light and people's facial expressions her camera caught.

We Hope to See You Again Samir

By Mohammed Chanaoui

Professor Samir Agnaou has left Al Akhawayn University at the beginning of the semester to other horizons. Professor Agnaou, who exemplifies the young generation of professors

gathering both the technical aspects of their position and the human aspects as well, has competently served at the School of Business Administration first as a lecturer in Economics and Finance, and as an undergraduate Program Coordinator. Samir has showed a great sense and a fine mind

able to deal proficiently with the complicated nature of his tasks.

On behalf of all the students of the School of Business Administration, we wish him good luck in his promising career.

Quotations of the Issue

When life hands you a lemon, say, "Oh yeah, I like lemons. What else ya got?"

Henry Rollins

He who is not very strong in memory should not meddle with lying.

Michel de Montaigne (1553 - 1592)

The nice thing about meditation is that it makes doing nothing quite respectable.

Paul Dean

When I give a lecture, I accept that people look at their watches, but what I do not tolerate is when they look at it and raise it to their ear to find out if it stopped.

Marcel Achard

Some people say that I must be a horrible person, but that's not true. I have the heart of a young boy -- in a jar on my desk.

Stephen King

There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full.

Dr. Henry Kissinger

If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life.

Brooke Shields

"Seven out of ten people suffer from hemorrhoids." Does this mean that the other three enjoy it?

Sal Davino

In Brief

AUI hosts a Pfizer seminar

At the beginning of the current semester, Al Akhawayn University hosted a seminar on cardiovascular diseases. This seminar was organized by Pfizer company and gathered some 160 neurologists, who discussed over two days (Oct. 30 & 31) issues related to new methods of pain relief and the like.

The Store sells items with AUI logo

Since last term, AUI Store has started to sell items bearing AUI logo. These items range from T-shirts to pens and stickers. Most students agree that the items are sold at reasonable prices.

Parents Services Office

A new office within the Development and Communication Department has seen the light: Parents Services Office. The main mission of the Office would be to constitute a contact between parents and the different components of the University.

Voice of America on campus

Starting October 2, VOA has become available at AUI. This is the outcome of a partnership agreement between the two institutions. Now AUI community can pick up VOA on Channel 23 UHF on their TV sets.

Prepaid phone cards available on campus

Good news! Starting this semester, prepaid phone cards have become available at the AUI Store.



Welcome at La Médaille d'Or where hairdressing is an art!

At La Médaille d'Or we Take care of your hair the way you like.

Telephone: 063 671250

Address: Marché Couvert, N° 138, Ifrane



Editorial

By Qods Benjelloun

The *AUI news* is back, starting a new chapter of its history under a new spirit and a new shape. Indeed, a new editorial team of dynamic and self-motivated members try as far as possible to give the publication the special touch it needed and to make it less formal and more related to student needs. As you may have noticed, a new logo has also been designed to underline this new spirit.

All this is great; however, we are still in need of more contributions from students; for *The AUI News* is a publication made by and for students and the entire AUI community. Contributions and suggestions from faculty and staff are very welcome as well. Therefore, the publication is a small network that enables all members of the AUI community to share their ideas and communicate their concerns, remarks and suggestions to each other, so we can finally see positive changes.

Why miss this opportunity to have your voice heard? Furthermore, writing for a newspaper is a way of being actively involved in campus life, and a way to enhance your writing skills, which is undoubtedly a very enriching experience.

If you are worried about your writing level, you don't have to any longer. Our advisers are here to assist you and proofread your articles, just do the first step and the rest will follow. You can also submit us any remarks and suggestions, and why not join our editorial team.

Townhall Meeting

By Qods Benjelloun

For those of you who have never heard about this meeting before, it is generally a forum for the exchange of ideas and information. Within the student context, it is an important meeting that can reflect the wellbeing of the community and that makes us move forward. In the American culture for example, it is a crucial event that brings together a cross-section of viewpoints, where people can just come, take the mike and raise whatever issue they want concerning all aspects of life within the student community.

Since this event should be as inclusive as possible, Well-organised and early-planned campaigns take place on campus in order to attract the widest variety of dynamic participants, so that the meeting is successful at providing and soliciting information, input and opinions, as well as identifying resources, volunteers, and setting priorities.

Who organises it? Usually the SGA in student communities, so that every student can have the opportunity to have his voice heard and his opinion taken into account. Such meeting has been organised in our University by the SGA but had little, not to say "no" success.

In spite of advertisement and notices, and the efforts of organising students, only 20 students showed up. It is really sad to notice students' lack of involvement in our community. Townhall meetings can really make a difference, and they cannot be successful without your presence and participation.

Atlas 'Cedracide'



By Peter Hardcastle

Al Akhawayn University has had its share of tragedies. There have been accidents, illnesses even deaths all of which have been marked by a collective sentiment of grief and sympathy, as indeed they should be.

However, another death took place on campus this year – a death made all the more tragic by its quiet, inconspicuous nature. Very few of us noticed his passing. Not many of us care. However, his desiccated corpse remains standing on the right-hand-side of the University main drive as you walk up towards the roundabout and car park from the main gate. And he is not alone. Yet another of his celebrated 500-year-old (quinquacentennial?) colleagues in a local national park near Azrou similarly gave up the ghost, shedding for the last time his evergreen needles onto the steady stream of tourists who come to admire his lofty tapering structure and magnificent girth.

No – I am not talking about people, of course. I am talking about trees. More specifically about the Atlantic cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) whose unmistakable silhouette has for centuries dominated the Atlas skyline. But not for much longer, I fear. The two examples I speak about, our unique (with the exception of the fine specimen at the main gate) campus cedar and the famous 'Cedre

Gouraud' near Azrou are the rule rather than the exception. For *Cedrus atlantica* is visibly on the decline, possibly heading rapidly towards endangered status, if not extinction.

I have lived in Morocco for eight years and in this short period of time I have watched these splendid trees disappearing one after the other, individual after individual. Their sad corpses are trucked out from their last middle and high Atlas strongholds on the creaking and lurching flatbeds of ancient Volvo trucks, spewing out the

of life.

What is going on? Why are these trees dying? And in such large numbers? Is it climate change? Drought? Viruses or insect infestations of the type which all but eliminated the beautiful elm from the European landscape in the 1970s? It is difficult to say. One thing is sure – we are not doing enough to help preserve this unique species.

On my frequent trips to the inner recesses of the High Atlas I regularly see evidence of man-made destruction. The Ministry of Water and Forests

of ancient cedars in order to cut off their supply of water and ground nutrients. The next year the trees die. The year after they are officially 'dead wood' and can be legally harvested. The trunk can be worth anything up to a hundred thousand dirhams. Well worth killing for. And unlike the hardy Middle Atlas oaks, cedars do not regenerate. The next time you see a dead cedar, check whether there are signs of burning at the base, and judge for yourself. In the High Atlas region I have seen stands of tens, even hundreds, of charred cedar trunks awaiting their fates. Only in the innermost recesses, away from all possible vehicular access, do some proud specimens resist the various natural and man-made pressures, which threaten their disappearing way of life.

Overgrazing, too, takes its toll. Uncontrolled herds of goats and sheep pluck every last thread of green from the High Atlas slopes, as the range is turned into mountain desert. Any germinating seeds are quickly devoured and all new growth is thus prohibited. I first visited Morocco in the seventies and I remember the High Atlas as a green land, at least in the spring. Not any more.

Clearly, climate change, acid rain, water shortages, insect infestations and disease are natural phenomena which we ourselves are subject to, and can do little about. But when we add human induced destructive pressure to these natural scourges, many vulnerable plant and animal species succumb to our intervention and disappear forever off the face of the Earth. The Atlantic Cedar could soon be one of these and Morocco, whose reputation for natural beauty and unspoiled nature draws two million tourists every year, will be very much poorer without it.



habitual plumes of half combusted diesel into the pure mountain air, on their way to the sawmills of Meknes and Azrou. I have watched the cedars of Ayachi crumble, the 'protected' stands of Bou Iblen and Jebel bou Naceur yield to the pressure. And last weekend, as I wandered round Michliffen reserve and the Azrou 'Foret des Cedres' I saw the first telltale signs of serious depletion there too: dozens and dozens of brown trees which last year or the year before had been green and full

(eaux et forêts) has some admirable policies regarding the conservation of valuable timber resources. For example, logging licences are only granted for lumberjacks to cut down already dead cedars. A good policy and one which is largely enforced. But there is a loophole – how did these dead trees die? Were they murdered? Were they the subject of one of Morocco's new environmental crimes – that of "cedracide"? In many cases, the answer is clearly yes. Loggers habitually set fire to the bottom of the trunks

Restaurant: The Never-ending Story

By Qods Benjelloun



Restaurant issues seem to be a never-ending problem. Do we all agree on that? However, one should recognize that there were some small but significant changes that some of you may have noticed through the semesters, especially old students. In fact, SGA members took the initiative to meet with the Sogeres managers and speak about restaurant issues. Have you noticed that the Paninis and sandwiches are available on a more continuous basis, as well as the other snacks ("Gaufres", "crepes...")? That was one of the fulfilled demands addressed by the SGA.

Buy one meal, Get a "hair" free!

Let's move to the hygiene issue. Anyone of you has ever been lucky enough to find a "hair" in his or her plate, or to get a "bug" as a bonus? At least now restaurant cooks and staff are required to serve food with one-use gloves. But should they really throw them away after "one" use? Students have

all the right to demand that the basic hygienic measures be grill for those who get their dinner late, so they are no lon-



respected. For that purpose, restaurant staff are required to wear badges with their names on them in case somebody fails to comply with the cleaning or service regulations.

Microwaves are now available in the three restaurants if anyone wants to heat up cold food (even though food should be served at an adequate temperature). Also, food from closing restaurants goes now to the

ger limited to steaks and fries.

Food-poisoning?

Concerning food-poisoning, SGA members were told that in order to take seriously a case into consideration, and start the necessary investigations, at least 5% of the student population needs to be affected (aww nmoutou?). That's unfortunate because many cases are undeclared. To cope with that, a compromise between SGA

members and restaurant coordinators was agreed upon: Any time a student is ill, he or she should notify the SGA and the campus doctor who will report it to the Dean of Student Affairs in order to look into the case.

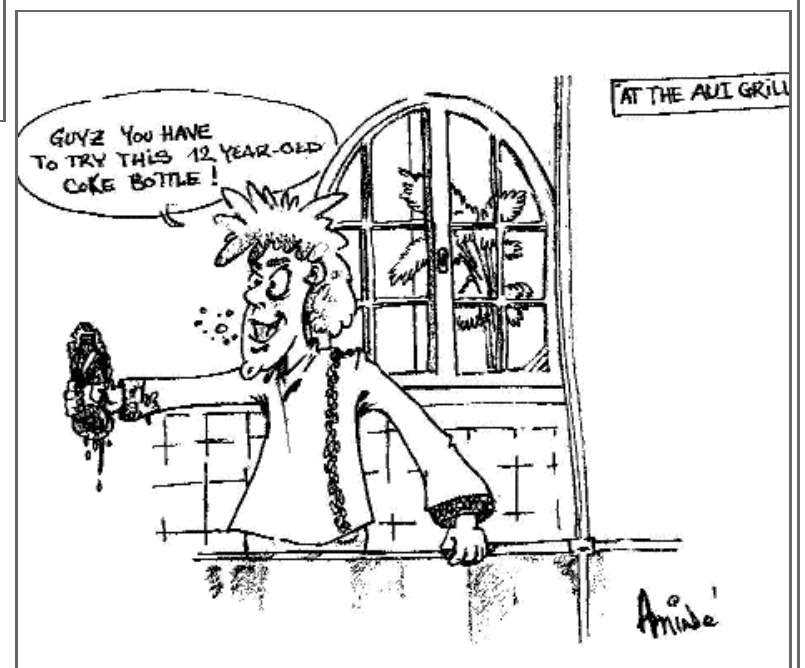
Speak up guys!

Another suggestion was made to bring more variety to the breakfast menu just like it was before with the previous catering company by introducing some more products like mortadella and "fromage rouge" etc. Also, why can't we have a small salt holder in each table instead of the big bottle we need to look for in every table,

around the two restaurants sometimes? Finally, SGA members can now organize "surprise parties"...oops, sorry! I meant "surprise inspections" in the restaurant to make sure hygienic measures are taken. So guys, please speak up if something bothers you. Don't just say it's useless to talk or act.

Scoop! Chawarma in AUI soon

Good news! Dr. Belfekih engaged himself with SGA members to bring a Chawarma machine on campus and even hire a special cook to take care of it. Guys, let's cross fingers!



Thinking Allowed

By Mohammed Chanaoui



Oops! Sorry, this course is not offered this semester!

Planning your career at Al Akhawayn University is the best decision that you can make. In fact, AUI represents the new trend of education system able to adjust to the constantly changing technological, social, and economic environment. However, planning your degree plan inside AUI could be a little problem. Why is this para-

dox?

A student chooses the adequate courses that he or she finds appropriate to study during a particular semester and go in parallel with the Prerequisite criteria. These courses should be made available to the students in order to enhance his or her desire to fully take advantages from the course, contribute efficiently to the discussions, and excel in the performance.

Time goes by and outdated Add-and-Drop procedure remains.

Every semester, Add & Drop days, like examination days, are considered as the most stressing days, in the lives of AUI students for many reasons.

First, The student has to take

his Add & Drop sheet to his advisor and to queue next to his office because the time of 1 advisor for each 10 students has become part of AUI tradition.

Second, after the approval of the advisor, the student has to take the same sheet to the coordinator for an everlasting queuing.

Third, the student has to wait next to the Registration Office for his turn that would be "very soon", just after 200 or 300 applicants, no more.

Finally, the miserable student meets the Registration Officer who may courteously inform him or her that the sections of the chosen courses are closed and he or she will be added to the waiting lists.

Add & Drop could become

smoother and more flexible if all AUI actors acknowledge that these procedures should be refined and adjusted to the emerging circumstances.

Pleeease, consider the size of the classes!

Al Akhawayn University enjoys the presence of prominent professors and researchers who provide it with the most updated knowledge in their area; and talented administrators who prepare the supporting infrastructure to attain the academic objectives. Therefore, AUI will always be considered a stupendous university that offers the adequate learning environment for the outstanding students in both Morocco and abroad. However, AUI does no longer provi-

de the privilege to take interesting courses in a reasonable class size. In fact, the average class size is now 35 students per class which constitutes an obstacle to interact efficiently with the professor, listen carefully to the contributions of your fellow students, and socialize with your classmates.

The AUI News reserves the right to reject, edit and condense all submissions for content, style and space considerations.

The Other Side of the Ocean

By Fatima Brown

“Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Morocco” said the announcer when the plane had landed. “I’m in a whole new world on the other side of the ocean”, was what I thought to myself when I first stepped off the airplane in Casablanca. I was expecting Morocco to be a country different than mine, but a person can never be fully prepared for the differences they are about to encounter. Over here, I found out that the food is different, the living routines are different, the clothes are different, the cities are different, the hospitality is different, right down to the way you shake hands, is different. Thinking I knew everything there was to know about Morocco and its culture, I came here with all the confidence I felt was necessary and remained open to new

ideas. It took me some time to really learn about all the different customs. Of course, most of my cultural experience occurred outside of Alakhawayn University. By traveling to different parts of Morocco, I have come to realize that all cities and areas have pretty much the same type of culture and customs. I find these customs very interesting and even adopted some of them. Like the practice of strong hospitality and kindness to neighbors. AUI is a little different though. Here, on campus, I see few traces of strong Moroccan culture accept with a few things like food and language. Instead, there is a positive international atmosphere, which is strengthened by the international community. I like the fact that there are students and professors from different parts of the world. When arriving to the university, it was pretty much what I expected.

The buildings with the red roofs and the tidy pathways...just like the brochure showed me. The only thing that surprised me was the size of the campus. Coming from a fairly large university, I saw AUI as a very small university. In fact, much smaller

very first University experience in Canada, freshman classes were only lectures in big halls with hundreds of students. I was lucky if my professor even knew my name. So the small close-nit community is what I love most about AUI. And I think that the ability for

sing on campus, is remarkable. It’s wonderful because it makes you feel that you are all in the same boat. Being able to wake up and go to class with just a few steps outside the door; the pleasure of being able to meet and visit your friends and classmates at anytime; to be able to eat together and study together, is the merit of living on campus. That is to say, the close nit structure of university housing allows student relationships and campus life to prosper. I came to Morocco and to Alakhawayn University in order to learn more about the language, the culture, the religion, and the history of Morocco. I plan to stay here until I complete my degree program in International Studies. Also, I must say that a large amount of my education and discovery comes from my experience outside of class: discovering Moroccan culture, making new friends, and participation in campus activities.

“I must say that a large amount of my education and discovery comes from my experience outside of class”

that what I expected. I have, however grown to appreciate the small classes and the small university community. The smaller the community, the better you can get to know people. And smaller classes allow more individual attention from professors and intellectual interaction with peers. With my

all students to live on campus is a privilege. In many Canadian universities less than 30 percent of the students actually live in the university housing, which can make students feel distant from university life, physically and mentally. So the fact that AUI has almost all of its students living in university hou-

Obituary

Always on my mind

By Aicha Azzaoui

When I first started work at Al Akhawayn University Library back in 1995, I felt like a total stranger. I didn’t know how my new life would be away from my family and among people that I didn’t know. Both the system and the environment looked unusual to me. The first person I met and became acquainted with was Fatima Gannali. Her smiling face, her sense of humor, her generosity and charisma made my library experience one of the best I had ever spent at AUI.

Despite the hardships, she always said that we should keep hoping and being optimistic all along our journey in this mysterious life. When she spent three years at AUI, she made a choice to leave for another job opportunity in Rabat, then Casablanca, and then New York. Our bond of friendship had always been there even though we didn’t



The late Fatima Gannali

always have the chance to meet. Her positive impressions that came through her e-mails concerning her job experience with the United Nations told a lot... She was happy and she enjoyed what she was doing. After spending one year in the United States, Fatima succumbed to her pain and suddenly left her job, family and friends. I still recall the day

before she left for NY. She told me that she would come back to Morocco for the summer vacation, but none of us could guess that she would come back as an inert body in a coffin. Seeing this latter was a shock that I still can’t get over. Looking at her pictures, reminiscent of all our memories, is more like a reminder than a loss.... A reminder that someday, it will be our turn, and that great people always remain alive because they are in our hearts and minds forever. *Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi Rajioun.*

Ms Fatima Gannali, a sworn translator, was a member of AUI family working as a Library Assistant from 1995 to 1997 when she moved to Rabat as a translator at the Indonesian Embassy before joining the Moroccan mission in the United Nations in New York in 2000. This sweet lady passed away on August 4th, 2002 in New York at the age of 32. Her death was a real shock to her bereaved family, friends and to all those who loved her. May Allah rest her soul in paradise.

By Ouissal Alami

Indifference

By Brahim Ouzineb

“Indifference is the essence of inhumanity.” — George Bernard Shaw, 19th/20th century Anglo-Irish dramatist and wit. I have waited long to draw the conclusion; whether we like it or not, people here at AUI are indifferent or simply unconscious about the others. In discussing this illness, because it is one, various stumbling-blocks spring readily. Thinking the matter over with my colleagues, friends among students and staff or any other employee, has shown clearly that it is everybody’s hate word. I suggest starting with the definition of Oxford dictionary of this phenomenon. It is the ‘absence of compulsion to or toward one thing or another.’ This breach in human relations shows the negation of action probably because the majority of the people at the university come from big cities where contact is reprimanded. Many a time our parents tell us not to mingle with strangers. This concept of the other as standing for evil has nothing to do with our culture; both Arab and Moslem. In fact, casting the blame on the other is a frailty in personality. I hear most of the time some students sneering at the administration while they don’t do any effort to educate themselves, as our president once said “the issue at stake here is the citizen not the administration, do we have citizen qua citizen?” or just mobile ‘critics’. In addition, any newcomer at the university finds it hard to merge within the numerous groups at AUI. Some hang round in the loun-

ge, Tilleul or take the lead in the parties. They end up in a corner under the cloak of the reason of coming here is to study not to socialize. I assure you that the majority have this in mind. This leaves the floor to the following question: how can we raise leaders of this society who lack the sense of initiative and easy communication? All in all, it is quite clear that you socialize, manifest your presence or end up shocked at the realities outside, once you leave the main gate to the work place. Think it over and on the wait for that ponder this poem I dedicate to you.

Indifference dwells caved mountains
Stay there alone, you remain alone
No smiles...no care
Wow awaiting that dawn
To leave the long path of the main gate
To a larger path when seldom do you meet someone
Seize the moment
Look for your kinsmen..love and smile
So Boast loses its prey
The stabs of fate will not reach you
You then be ahead of your time
Being senseless favors others
History does not repeat itself
Gaudy Ignorance peers you
Mortals will never fathom the vain boast
Leading to wretchedness
Taking on a larger journey and leaving a sting somewhere
Smothering Friendship, Love, or Hope

Interview with Dr Mohamed Dahbi, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences

by Mohamed Ouakif

Dr Mohamed Dahbi has been appointed recently Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The new Dean held the same position from 1995 to 1998. Dr Dahbi kindly accepted to give

The AUI News the following interview.

Q: Thank you first Dr Dahbi for having accepted our invitation. My first question to you would be to introduce yourself to those who don't know you among the AUI community.

A: I am a professor of English and Linguistics at Mohammed V University. I studied also at Mohammed V University. My first undergraduate degree is from Mohammed V University. The rest of my education: I have a Master's in Linguistics from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. And I have a Ph.D. in linguistics also from Georgetown University. I started teaching in 1969-1970. I taught in the secondary school system for three years. I did my Master's and then I came back and worked at university for about 6 years and then I went to do my Ph.D. I came back again and worked with the English Department for many years until I got involved with Al Akhawayn University project. So I worked with the project before the University existed; I was part of the team of people that were reviewing the plans and the pedagogical aspect. In August 1994, I was received by his late Majesty King Hassan II along with the other founding officers of this University. I became the first dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. That was in August 1994. We spent a good time preparing in Rabat first and then we came here in Ifrane before the grounds of the University were

Majesty King Hassan II, Crown Prince Abdullah, and President Yassir Arafat. So that's me. Maybe people know that I have been involved with the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange for many years. I am now the president. My term is going to be over soon. I'll stay as a member. I'm very much interested in everything that has to do with higher education in this country. I have worked a lot with the public university, my university: Mohammed V University in Rabat. I was involved at different levels: planning programs and attempts to change and to reform things. I feel indebted a lot to Mohammed V University. I consider that Al Akhawayn University is a very important addition to the national university system. It has a lot to take from the national public university system and it has a lot to give to the national public university system.

So you were one of the founding fathers of the University. You've been here for a while and then you left. Did you notice any changes that might have taken place at the University during these five years?

Yes, in five and some years that I have been away; but I have kept contact with the University. But I haven't been as close as I am now. I have seen things happen. Things change. But I must say that being here and living these few days, a couple of weeks here and working



Dr Mohamed Dahbi, the New SHHS Dean

really feeling like a real university. This has been taken care of. At the beginning we were like... starting any business, any institution...we were doing everything. As dean I also was in charge of recruiting the staff. In fact, I was also the one in charge of starting the library. I ordered the core collection of the library. I was also in charge of buying the books for the Book Store so that the first students could find them. We were involved in everything. There was no division of labor as it's supposed to be in any modern institution. Now there is that division of labor and things are, it seems to me, running very very well. But again, that was in the beginning. **The School of Humanities and Social Sciences ranks third as to the number of students it attracts. Do you have any plans to attract more students?**

Well, we're doing much better than before. Before there was a degree that's called BS in Social Science. It did not attract people because it was not labeled to attract people who are interested in professional career. Social Science doesn't sound like something that's going to get you a job anyway. What has been done now in my absence, and this is a very good thing, is that the programs have been labeled for professional careers like International Studies. We have Communication, Human Resources Development. We have International Stu-

dies and Diplomacy at the graduate level, and those are social science except that they are focused on professional careers rather than labeled just in reference to the general discipline which is social science. This is attracting more students. There are more than 170 students now in the School, which is good. The M.A. program has about 20 students; the Communication Program is also quite well. So, as far as numbers are concerned, I think we're doing well. It's on the rise. We're not only attracting majors but we're also attracting students from other schools, especially students from the Business School who are interested in minor, especially International Studies; we have also Communication. International Studies because students in business realize that it is very important for them to have a training in international affairs where the economy is international and also business schools because they realize that communication is very important for them. Communication is attracting students from other schools because we all know that communication is very important in today's world. Whether you are an engineer or a businessman, you need to be able to get across your ideas, your products, your arguments to people. I

think that's why we are attracting students. So, I think the school is doing well and it's going to be better *in chaallah*.

Your school is the one which is in charge of the Arabic summer program which is a success. Don't you have plans so that the program will be conducted around the year?

I don't think it would make much sense because the students that come here, students that come mostly from foreign universities. They do that as part of their summer rather than vacation... We have exchange students who are here, who are taking Arabic classes. We have also an intensive Arabic course: five hours a week. In fact, it is continuing except that in the summer the focus is on that group of students...We have more

"With what we have now, I think, a lot of progress has been made."

exchange students international students who came.

You held the same position from 1995 to 1998 when you decided to leave. Why have you decided to come back to AUI, if I may ask this question?

I came back because the President asked me to come back, to promote the project. Al Akhawayn project is a project that is very dear to my heart. So it's normal that I accept. Circumstances have changed, and I'm very grateful to circumstances that made it possible for me to come back and carry on the work of developing this project which is very important for our country because it is an alternative system of education. It's quality education and these things are important for this country

Do you have any message that you may want to say to the AUI community?

I am here ready to help, ready to contribute to any efforts. I'd like to contribute as much as I can to the programs of this University and the success of this University.

"I consider that Al Akhawayn University is a very important addition to the national university system. It has a lot to take from the national public university system and it has a lot to give to the national public university system."

opened for living and then later we moved in. We prepared the inauguration which took place in January 1995, the inauguration which was presided over by His late

here, I have noticed a huge difference between the first days and the first two years. With what we have now, I think, a lot of progress has been made. The University is

Hand in Hand Begins School Year With Book-Bag Distribution Project

By Heather Moon* & Khalid Ghezala**

Following its tradition at the beginning of every academic year, Hand in Hand Association has been involved once again in a book and/or bag distribution for needy children in primary schools in Ifrane and the rural areas surrounding it.

Since the beginning of this fall, Hand in Hand student volunteers along with faculty and staff advisors distributed books and book-bags in four schools. The principle is always to give priority to pupils attending schools. Hand in Hand has partnerships with, namely Ait Lahcen and Ben Smim. This partnership has been enlarged this year to include Zaouia primary school. Al Nasr primary school has also benefited from the project. Backpacks are distributed to needy first-year students. Needy students in other levels of the primary schools are provided with the necessary books for the school year.

The following is a glimpse of what the statistics of the Hand in Hand cartable campaign look like:

First grade: 150 full backpacks

Second grade: 84 programs

Third grade: 89 programs



A child holding a Hand In Hand school bag

Fourth grade: 67 programs

Fifth grade: 48 programs

Sixth grade: 43 programs

The children and the school staff were all very grateful for the books and the generosity of the Hand in Hand Association and volunteers and the entire Al-Akhawayn University community, which by itself has donated an amount of 60,000 Dhs so far.

Now that the cartable campaign has come to an end and classes have started we look forward to having you join us in the forthcoming academic support sessions and extracurricular activities we will be organizing soon for the school children.

Last but not least, Hand in Hand Association has managed to build a small library for the children at both Ait Lahcen and Ben Smim schools, something which they desperately needed. Thanks to the generosity of inside and outside donors, Hand in Hand was able to spend 189,000 Dhs on construction of the two libraries, after a study in collaboration with an engineer from the Ministry of National Education and after consulting a few entrepreneurs. Hand in Hand is currently working on making the necessary shelving for both libraries, which will be soon filled with books that cost about 23,000 Dhs. We will be announcing soon the timing of the inauguration in which we urge everyone to participate.

* Full-time Hand In Hand volunteer

**Hand In Hand Advisor

Drama and Theater

By Taoufik El Ouali*

Drama means action. Works of drama, unlike other literary forms such as stories and poems, are created primarily to be presented in public by a group of people called "Performers". Each performer plays the role of one of the characters in the story the play is telling.

While writing a play, the playwright – the person who writes plays – should consider both the aural and the visual aspects of the drama, which are as important as its dialogue.

In drama, the following matters should be considered: Costuming, set design, lighting effects, and stage movement.

For the reader of a play, these matters are not easy to grasp. He or she must contrive to reach them through his or her imagination. A reader, while reading a play, should imagine the action contained in that play. He or she should :

Create the set

Create the lighting

Perceive how actors are dressed

Grasp the timing: how long between events and speeches

Perceive the blocking : how actors move as they interact on stage

In Sum, the reader of the play puts himself or herself in the position of a stage director.

Throughout history, dramas have been among the most influential works of literature.

To cite but a few historical pillars that marked this literary genre, we can begin by the Greek dramatists such as Sophocles, Aeschylus and Euripides.



Then the middle ages dramatists: Shakespeare in England, Moliere in France, and Johann Wolfgang Goethe in Germany. Other more contemporary dramatists are Henrik Ibsen in Norway, Known as the father of modern drama, Oscar Wilde, Arthur Miller, etc.

It is also worth noting that the old works of drama differ considerably from the contemporary ones. The ancient Greek drama was performed in an open-air amphitheatre seating thousands of people. It relies almost entirely on dialogue. And the performers were forced to wear masks to show face expressions.

Contemporary drama, on the other hand, is performed in small space seating, no more than few hundreds of people. It contains, in addition to dialogue, unspoken material – the stage directions – which tells the actors when to enter or to

leave the stage; gives them suggestions on how to speak their lines; and describes their costumes and their physical surroundings on the stage – the setting. Contemporary drama does not use masks to show face expressions.

There are many kinds of drama. The most widespread and familiar subdivisions are comedy and tragedy. Comedy usually deals with common people, uses a light and pleasant tone that encourages amusement and entertainment, and ends happily. Tragedy uses a serious tone, deals with profound issues, and usually ends with the death of the leading character. Sometimes, the two subdivisions are mixed – Italian drama – creating thus a new subdivision, TRAGICOMEDY.

Because plays are designed to be performed, a performance space is needed. The space in which plays are performed is called "THEATRE", from the greek "THEATRON", meaning " SEEING PLACE".

In fact, any space in which actors perform live for an audience is called theatre. Peter Brook, a prominent British theatre director, said that for theatre to take place, an actor walks across an empty space while someone else is watching.

The purpose of both Drama and Theatre, as the Roman writer Horace said of literature in general, are mainly to entertain and instruct. They are also designed to motivate, persuade, and even shock.

* AUI Theater Club Advisor

Marketing Club: Fun & Knowledge

By Ghizlane Tigrif

The Marketing Club's purpose is to encourage and develop every idea that will help improve students' knowledge in the field of marketing. The club's program for this semester is very rich: the organization of the academic activities such as the Marketing Night that will be run by our outstanding Marketing professors, and a Marketing Competition that will be an excellent occasion to join fun and knowledge.

One of the aims of the Marketing Club is to shorten the distances between the student and the businesses through organizing various Field Trips to big companies that have well-developed Marketing Departments. In addition, since Spring 2002 the Club has launched *The Marketing Club Newsletter* which will be published in collaboration with *The AUI News*. All students are invited to join our Club!

What Do AUI Students Think About the Legislative Elections?

Friday, September 27 was a special day in the history of our country: the legislative elections. The future of a whole nation was contingent on that day. However, what we have noticed these days is that there is a huge gulf between the Moroccan youth and the politics. What are the reasons of this cut? And how can this negative attitude towards politics be changed? *The AUI News* decided to make these casual interviews with some AUI students to see what they think about politics and September-27 elections just a couple of days before the voting day. Let's see what they think.

By Mouaad Ibriz

Name: Sanaa Mokhtari
School: SHSS
Standing: Senior

Are you going to vote?

Unfortunately no, because at the time of the registration for the elections I didn't reach the minimum age for voting.

Why most of the Moroccan youth are not interested in politics?

The majority of the students, the Moroccan youth in general, are living in an environment where the parents and grandparents became less interested in politics for many reasons. Consequently, the youth don't have any idea about politics in Morocco. It's a shame.

What do you think of the electoral campaign?

In general, the current electoral campaign is different from the previous ones. First of all, the use of symbols instead of colors and that will be less confusing for the population as a whole. Secondly, the important role played by the TV in giving equal chances to the political parties to explain their electoral programs.

Name: Amine Omar Haili
School: SHSS
Standing: Senior



Do you have any idea about what will take place on next Friday, September 27?

Yes, of course. And I will go further and say that there will be many canceled cards. I think that the big parties, with a well organized agenda will get the majority of votes. Also, parties like the PJD will have more seats than the last elections. concerning the small parties, they will not get a lot, but they will influence the big parties.

Are you going to vote?

Yes, of course. It's my right. In fact, a single voice will not influence but I will do it anyway.

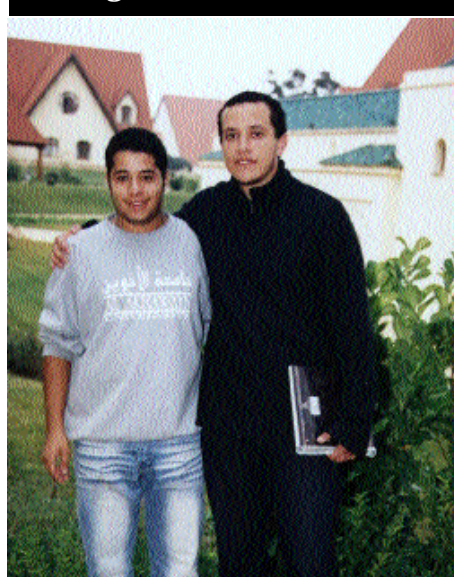
Why most of the Moroccan youth are not interested in politics?

Simply because the agendas of the political parties are not that attracting to them.

What do you think of the electoral campaign?

It was OK. The ministry spent an important amount of money in the campaign to introduce the new electoral system and

Name: Mehdi Taha Bouamri
School: SBA
Standing: Junior



explain it.

Do you have any idea about what will take place on next Friday, 27?

Who doesn't know about the big event that the whole nation is waiting for?

Are you going to vote?

Frankly, I will not. And this is due to the fact that, in my opinion, there is no political party that deserves my voice. In other words, our political parties haven't reached yet the level required to develop the very known concept of "Democracy".

Why most of the Moroccan youth are not interested in politics?

I think that I implicitly answered that question in the one before. And basically the majority lost its faith on Moroccan politicians.

What do you think of the electoral campaign?

I appreciate the effort made for the media coverage of this special event; but It's just a start. The role of the media is

Name : Rouchdi Bakr

School: SSE

Standing : Senior



crucial in such events.

Do you have any idea about what will take place on next Friday, September 27?

People will vote for the new 2002 elections to decide which party will get the majority in order to constitute the government.

Are you going to vote?

Yes.

Why most of the Moroccan youth are not interested in Politics?

Because politics is something boring for them.

What do you think about the electoral campaign?

It was a total success and it really helped

Name : Amine Chabi
School : SHSS
Standing : MAISD



to make things easy for the population.

Do you have any idea about what will take place on next Friday, September 27?

Yes, the legislative Elections.

Are you going to vote?

Yes, but with a blank vote.

Why most of the Moroccan youth are not interested in Politics?

They don't recognize themselves in political parties. Leadership of parties is *old* and they don't want to pass power to younger people.

What do you think of the electoral campaign?

Very miserable. The 26 parties didn't provide significant programs of action in economic and social fields.

Do you have any idea about what will take place on next Friday, September 27?

The legislative elections.

Are you going to vote?

Yes.

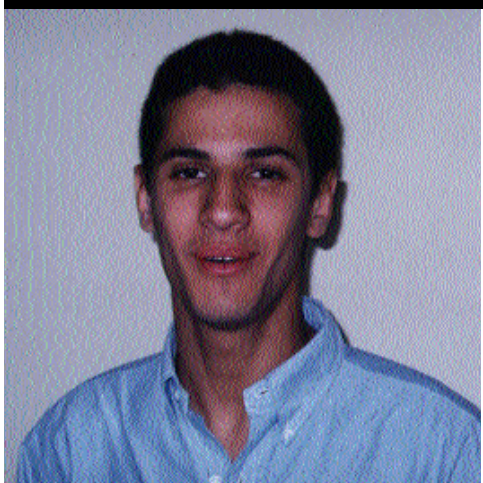
Why most of the Moroccan youth are not interested in politics?

They are confused by the multitude of political parties. They don't believe in politics because they witnessed their parents' disillusion during the less democratic years in Morocco.

What do you think of the electoral campaign?

Politics in Morocco have never been the focus of media attention. A great effort has been made to create awareness among our society.

Name: Ibrahim Tahiri
School: IS
Standing: Sophomore



Do you have any idea about what will take place on next Friday, September 27?

Friday, September 27 will be the Moroccan legislative elections day. 325 seats will be distributed over 26 political parties.

Compliments And Complaints

Students' Perceptions of the Academic Programs and Other Facilities at AUI Findings of a Survey

By Dr. Arif Ghayur*

I carried out the present study in the Spring of 2002 on the advice of Dr. Driss Ouaoouicha, VPAA, AUI. He asked me "to conduct a survey which is of some practical use to the AUI". I submitted a research proposal titled, "Students' Perceptions of the Academic Programs and Other Facilities at AUI". Fortunately, the VPAA liked the proposal and approved it.

This study was basically an information-gathering survey. I have generated close to 100 tables, charts and graphs from the survey data contained in my final report of about 80 pages which I submitted to the VPAA in May 2002.

Obviously, I will be able to include only the highlights of the findings of my research here. If any one of you get interested in more details of the survey (than what I am giving here) in *The AUI News* you can always contact me.

Students basically indicated their complaints and suggestions to improve the situation as they saw it. In essence, the objective of the study was to assess students' perceptions of some of the academic programs and other facilities at the AUI campus.

SAMPLING METHOD AND THE METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION:

Last Spring, the University had a total enrollment of a little over 1,000 students. This survey is based on interviewing 15.4% of the total students at AUI (i.e. 154). The proportion of girls and boys in the sample was very close to their actual percentage in the student population. Similarly, the sample was also very representative of the proportion of undergraduate/graduate population on this campus as well as of the three Schools at AUI.

I must take this opportunity to thank my Statistics class of 21 students of Spring 2002 because they helped me collect the data. In return, they got some experience in how to develop a questionnaire, approach respondents and interview them properly, data collection, and statistical analysis.

I used a 39-question long survey instrument to collect data for the present study. Fifteen of the questions were open-ended where students could write their suggestions about the academic programs and the other facilities at AUI.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY:

I had collected data about the following items as far as students' satisfaction/ dissatisfaction level is concerned. Please note that in case the 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' did not exactly apply to a category, I have indicated whatever applies in the parentheses with that specific item here.

Percent either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied'

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1) Computer and Internet facilities | 41.7% |
| 2) Library facilities and policies | 66.2% |
| 3) Professors' performance | 61.2% |
| 4) Sufficient variety of courses offered or not | 38.6% |
| 5) Classroom facilities, scheduling of classes, etc. | 69.7% |
| 6) Campus Bookstore | 68.4% |
| 7) Campus store | 35.3% |
| 8) Campus credit card system | 84.2% |

9) Curriculum in one's own degree program 74.4%

10) AUI degree gives a good start to one's career 82.9%

11) Quality of education at AUI compared to other universities in Morocco ('better than all others': 53.3%, and 'above average' 44.1) 97.4%

12) AUI's ranking among Moroccan universities with regard to prestige ('most prestigious' 55.3% plus 'above average' 42.1%)? 97.4%

13) Conditions in the dorms 75.7%

14) Provision of extra-curricular activities (e.g. sports, musical concerts, swimming pool, etc) 67.3%

15) Food service 41.7%

It is quite clear from the above table that majority of the students were either 'very satisfied' or at least 'quite satisfied' regarding a large number of issues. But the data also indicated that on four items (out of a total of 15), the majority of the students were either 'somewhat not satisfied' or 'not very satisfied'. These items are:

Either 'somewhat not satisfied' or 'not very satisfied'

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Food Service | 59.3% |
| Net Connection, I. T. S. | 62.2% |
| Campus StoreE | 64.7% |
| Present Grading System | 72.1% |

According to my analysis, majority of the students have been basically complimentary about the academic programs at AUI. In fact, most of them are complimentary about most of the 'non-academic' facilities - generally speaking. In other words, they have not complained a lot on both categories of the issues. It seems they realize that the University is newly-established and that it is trying to provide good facilities for students. It is able to provide very good education as well as other facilities. They have a good perception of the University and what it is trying to do for them. However, if the overwhelming majority of students are complaining about some issues, the University *must* pay special attention to what they are saying. Let's go a little deeper over the four items about which students have complained quite a bit:

By the way, I am not giving each and every suggestion made by students here pages as the suggestions are hundreds in number -- when taken collectively -- for all the 15 questions. However, I will discuss the major topics in the lines below:

FOOD SERVICE:

Only 2.0% students answered as 'very satisfied' and 39.7% as 'quite satisfied' about the food service. It means a substantial majority (59.3%) of students are not happy with the food service (29.1% each is either somewhat unsatisfied' or 'very unsatisfied'). Again, almost six out of every 10 being not satisfied indicates quite a high level of dissatisfaction. I remember students were really dissatisfied with the caterers who had a contract with AUI till last year. Students were so much dissatisfied with their food that it was a major topic of conversation among them whenever they were dining in the restaurant.

When the former caterers were asked to leave AUI and this new catering service was contracted, I had noticed that in the beginning students saying that the new catering service was far better than the last one for sure. Still it seems that the new caterer also has to make lots of improvements to make students happy. (I have started wondering

how bad must be the old catering service!)

This is just my hunch that a very large majority of students leave their homes for the first time in their lives when they join AUI. Most of the students come from well-off socio-economic classes anyway. (My data confirms this). The dining commons (at AUI they call it the restaurant) food is mass produced. The food here is definitely not prepared to cater to the individual tastes of students (as their mothers or cooks will make sure to do at home). Therefore, they may be putting the dining commons food down a little more than it deserves to be downgraded. This is just an idea on my part!

The major complaints/suggestions they have made about the food are:

- Food quality
- Prices
- Lack of much food variety
- Food generally not hot
- Limited opening times of the restaurant
- Slow speed of service, etc

NET CONNECTIONS & I. T. S.

Only 2.6% students indicated that they were 'very satisfied' and only another 29.2% said they were 'quite satisfied'. On the other hand, 45.5% were 'very unsatisfied' and 22.7% were 'somewhat unsatisfied'. These are large numbers which should not be ignored by the AUI administration. It means some improvements are needed in this direction for sure.

Some of the major complaints are:

- Faster connection
 - More labs
 - More servers. Larger bandwidth
 - ITS staff not sufficiently efficient
- Now we have a new ITS Director. He has already made improvements in some of these items. Let's hope we will have more of them in the days to come.

CAMPUS STORE:

Only 3.3% students indicated that they were fully satisfied with the performance of the campus store whereas another 32.0% were 'quite satisfied'. On the other hand, it also means 64.7% were not satisfied with the store's performance. Out of a total of 154 sample size, highest number of complaints (58) were made about lack of variety of items and the high prices. A student wrote, "Don't assume that all AUI students come from rich families". Second and third items of complaints were 'non-availability of cigarettes' (22) and very limited opening hours (16 students mentioned that). Obviously, the second most frequently mentioned complaint about the store (regarding cigarettes) is the result of the recent policy of AUI (introduced last year) about the non-availability of cigarettes in the store.

I guess the campus store has to improve itself on many fronts to satisfy the students.

PRESENT GRADING SYSTEM:

Since it's inception, the system at AUI has only the grades of 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', and 'F' whereas in the United States overwhelming majority of universities (most likely close to 95%+) now have additional grades of 'A-' (3.75), 'B+' (3.5), 'B-' (2.75), 'C+' (2.5), 'C-' (1.75), 'D+' (1.5), and schools even have a grade of 'D-' (0.75). This changeover was done on a very large scale in the 1970s all over the U.S. The only five-letter grade system which is prevalent at AUI -- is considered archaic in the United States today. In the US the grading system generally has 11 com-

ponents, instead of only five these days.

The prevalent American grading system leaves lots of room for professors to give various grades (for example, in-between 'A' and 'B') more appropriately according to the actual performance of the student. However, at AUI sometime when a grade is in actuality calculated as a 'B+' (3.5) -- in terms of GPA -- by the professor it boils down to only a 3.0. On the other hand, an 'A-' for no reason is inflated to 4.0 (which should not be done at all, ideally speaking). More than seven out of every ten students (72.1%) believe the grading system should be changed. In fact, among those who believe that the grading system should be changed, **99.1% of those who recommended the change in the system should be changed for the Fall 2002 final exams.** Only 0.9% said it should be changed after the Fall of 2002. Thus, this suggestion seems to be a very important students' demand. In my opinion, the University *must* try to change it for the Fall of 2002. The sooner the better.

It is really surprising why the University introduced this archaic grading system in the first place. It's a newly-established university. Obviously, AUI could have started with the current and more fair American grading system. Moreover, once a very large number of students also believe that the new, more modern grading system should be started, it is advisable for the administration to change it for the exams of the Fall of 2002.

FOUR ITEMS WITH HIGHEST SATISFACTION RATINGS:

Students showed the highest level of satisfaction for the following four items:

- Percent either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied'*
- | | |
|--|-------|
| AUI's prestige ranking compared to other Moroccan universities | 97.4% |
| Campus credit card system | 84.2% |
| AUI's contribution in making good career start | 82.9% |
| Good curriculum for one's own degree program | 74.4% |

I shall be discussing the above-mentioned items with more data at a later stage.

TOP THREE SUGGESTIONS ON EACH OF THE 15 ITEMS:

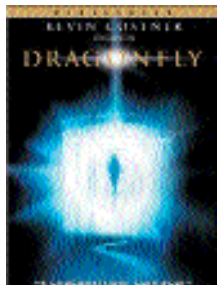
Generally students have made a great variety of suggestions for each item. But the highest number of different types of suggestions was made for the AUI Library, i.e. 23 different ones. The lowest number of different suggestions were given for the university credit card system -- only five different types of suggestions. Obviously, several different suggestions are made for items where students believe that lots of improvements are needed and they are concerned about that facility.

Library is a very important part of any seat of higher learning. That is why, students were quite concerned about the conditions there. They gave quite a few suggestions for improvements in the library. Since complaints about the campus credit card system were very few in all, therefore, the total number of different types of complaints were also the lowest (only five different types of complaints). I am attaching the tables here that show the "top three main complaints or suggestions" about each of the 15 issues in the first article (in my series of three articles) which will appear in *The AUI News* on the topic.

On On Campus This Week

Coming Soon Near You

Dragonfly (2002)



"Belief gets us there," explains nun Linda Hunt to grieving widower Kevin Costner, an emergency room doctor whose ordered world is startled by "messages" from his dead wife. She's talking about the journey from life to death, but it describes the doctor's road from fact to faith equally well as he puzzles out the otherworldly events of his life. Costner's mourning comes off less lost and sad than simply emotionless and inert, but he finds good support from Kathy Bates as his sassy neighbor. Her appearances, along with a few startling horror-movie-type shocks, energize a film otherwise shrouded in loss, grief, and the hushed mood of supernatural spookiness. It's like a fusing of *Ghost*, *The Sixth Sense*, and *The Mothman Prophecies*, a New Age melodrama in a sentimental key that works through a rather contrived mystic mystery to a glowing climax. This is less a ghost story than a modern twist on the old-fashioned miracle.

In the bedroom (2001)



When a film with such emotional resonance and visual poise as *In the Bedroom* makes it to the screen, it seems an unexpected gift meant to remind us of the medium's possibility for sensitivity and epiphany. First-time director Todd Field, who adapted the film from a story by Andre Dubus with screenwriter Rob Festinger, quietly observes the loss, rage, and inexorable desire for revenge that follows the murder of a 21-year-old son. The film

opens with Frank (Nick Stahl), back from college for the summer, taking up with Natalie (Marisa Tomei), a slightly older, sexually alluring woman with two boys and an estranged husband prone to violence. It is the tender portrayal of love between Frank and his parents, even as Frank and Natalie's relationship reveals the prejudices of all involved, that makes the subsequent anguish of the film so acute. Matt and Ruth Fowler (Tom Wilkinson and Sissy Spacek), middle-class denizens of a Maine lobster town where everyone knows each other, toil through weeks of devastation and blame following Frank's murder before their outrage obliterates all else. Field's exact handling of jealousy, class division, and grief is abetted by career-highlight performances from Wilkinson and Spacek. *In the Bedroom* is, along with *You Can Count On Me*, one of the best American dramas to grace the new millennium so far.

Jhon Q. (2002)



It's impossible to walk away from *John Q.* without thinking about the film that could have been. The pathetic state of health care in the U.S. and the desperate behavior it engenders is not only worthy but edgy material; no doubt director Nick Cassavetes (*She's So Lovely*) and Denzel Washington (as well as Robert Duvall, Ray Liotta, James Woods, and Anne Heche) were drawn to the provocative pitch. The only snag is that *John Q.* has about as much edge as an after-school special. Washington plays John Quincy Archibald, a hard-working factory worker whose house stands to be repossessed and whose lovely wife (Kimberly Elise) is at her

wits' end. When his extremely cute son collapses while rounding the bases in a Little League game, things go from bad to worse. John Q. takes a downtown Chicago emergency room hostage when he learns that the heart transplant his son needs won't be performed because his health care doesn't cover it. The action-drama that ensues--replete with one-liners, stilted debate, inept snipers, and multiple references to O.J. Simpson's white Bronco--is so littered with clichés that the issues, timely ones, get lost in a crescendo of melodrama.

Training day (2001)



A powerhouse performance by Denzel Washington fuels this brutal urban police drama, in which a rookie narcotics cop learns the hard way that even good cops can go very, very bad. Washington plays veteran detective Alonzo Harris, a self-proclaimed "wolf among wolves," eager to teach his rookie partner Jake (Ethan Hawke) that normal rules don't apply on the mean streets of Los Angeles. Caught in a web of deception, Jake watches with escalating horror as Alonzo uses his badge (and the support of his superiors) to justify a self-righteous policy of corruption. In stark contrast to most of his previous work, Denzel unleashes his dark side with fearlessness and fury, and the result is excellence without compromise. Director Antoine Fuqua (*The Replacement Killers*) won't score any points for subtlety, but gritty details (including actual L.A. gang members as extras) and Hawke's finely tuned performance are perfectly matched to Washington's frightening volatility.

Source: Amazon.com

ZamZam-cola vs. Coca-Cola

The Irani beverage Zamzam-cola - launched by a campaign that boycotts American products- has just been introduced in Saudi Arabia where it seems to have a great success. Indeed, the demand on the famous beverage that carries the name of the holy springs increased three times more than the local distributor's expectations. Four million cans have already been sold during the 7 first days only, and the Iranian Company intends to enlarge its factory to satisfy the demand. Zamzam-cola and zamzam-cola light is distributed in Iraq, Bahrein and Pakistan, are we going to taste it any time soon in Morocco?

Indian movie theaters: A seat for two

In Bombay, a city where public display of affection is not well perceived, some movie theaters propose special seats designed for couples so they can enjoy watching their movie together. Ten seats in each room of the three main theaters of the capital are now available in the back, so lovers can cuddle while watching the movie without bothering or offending others. It seems that the idea attracted married couples as well.

Suggested by Qods Benjelloun (Version Hommes magazine)

Actual School Excuse Notes

These are excuse notes from parents (with their original spelling) collected by schools from all over the country:

- 1) My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.
- 2) Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
- 3) Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29,30, 31, 32, and also 33.
- 4) Please excuse Gloria from Jim today. She is administrating.
- 5) Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
- 6) John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
- 7) Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.
- 8) Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.
- 9) Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.
- 10) Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.
- 11) Please excuse Pedro from being absent yesterday. He had (diahre) (dyrea) (direathe) the runs. [words in ()'s were crossed out.]
- 12) Please excuse Burma, she has been sick and under the doctor.
- 13) Irving was absent yesterday because he missed his bust.
- 14) Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.
- 15) I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wears.
- 16) Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.
- 17) Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.
- 18) My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent a weekend with the Marines.
- 19) Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well

Just a Whisper

By: Kawtar Messat

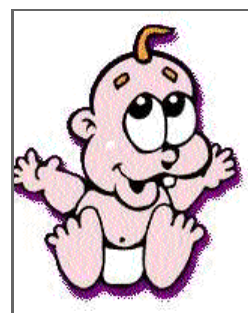
Once, life was whispering to me,
With a smile on her face
Expressing her emotions

Till the day she started weeping
And blaming everything around her,
Because she couldn't support the sadness

The sun, the moon, and the stars were wondering
About what was happening around,
But they couldn't understand

Life couldn't resist anymore,
And said with a tear on her cheeks
"It was not my mistake"

Congratulations to the following couples on their new babies:



Mrs Yasmine Bahaji, Acting Director of Housing, and Mr Hafid Mekkaoui, LC teacher.
Mrs Asmaa M o h s i n e Hicham, the President Office Assistant, and Mr Abdessamad Laaroussi.
Salah Didi Alaoui, Cash and Billing Manager, and his spouse.

Congratulations

Dr Tajje-eddine Rachidi, SSE professor, and his spouse.
Dr. Latifa El Mortaji, SHSS professor, and her spouse.
Dr. Carlos Conde Martinez, SHSS professor, and his spouse.
Dr. Driss Maghraoui, SHSS professor, and his spouse.
Hassan Hayfouf, Building 1 Agent, and his spouse.

Congatulations to the following couples on their marriage:

Peter Hardcastle, CADS Director, and Mara Barrow, LC Coordinator.
Mohamed El Amri, Hall Director, and Aziza Boumahdi, Hall Director.



Rajaa Saidi, Assistant to the Student Activities Director.
Abderrahman Shimi, the Campus Store helper, and his spouse.

M o h a m e d Rougui, Internal Auditor, and his spouse.
Adil Kamane, Associate Director for Athletics, and

Japanese Experience

By Mohammed Chanaoui*

Being a technophobic person and going to Japan would be considered as the most stupid mistake that you would ever make. In fact, I have heard so many stories even myths about the



The Japanese toilet machine

technical advancement of Japan, and the Japanese mania about technological devices; However, I have never imagined that it will come one day that I will have to go to the

restroom and be facing a toilet machine.

Oh! What an unconceivable surprise! What should I do? I have to deal with my biological duty; I can't wait any longer.

I started scanning the pictures depicting the procedures that I have to undertake because I can't

understand all the Kanjis (Japanese alphabet). Fortunately, I pressed the right buttons, and the

toilet machine experience has no longer been a nightmare for me.

*Mohammed Chanaoui was an AUI exchange student in Japan in Fall 2001 and Spring 2002

20 Minutes To Make A Difference

By Abdessamad Fatmi

Today we are going to share with you a story that affected us so much here at AUI publications that we thought everybody should get a taste of it. During the two previous semesters, we have been witnessing a serious shortage in contributions to the newspapers. Most of the articles were written either by the editors-in-chief or by certain dedicated staff members. The issue became so serious that we started reconsidering our policy towards the publications. First, a system whereby the university would pay the contributors by inch written was suggested to us. Then others suggested hiring student editor-in-chiefs on a part-time basis.

At the beginning, we were totally opposed to the idea of paying students for a service that they would render to themselves. Moreover, we thought that such a move would badly affect the voluntary spirit on which most of student activities are based. If we pay an editor-in-chief, why

not pay the Ballet or Yoga teachers, or the Spanish teachers, or the Hand in Hand volunteers, or the music clubs... or anyone of the many AUI community members who dedicate their time and energy for the benefit of others? Still, in the case of publications, we felt that it is not one of the activities we could disregard or afford to lose without doing anything, so we thought: Let's give hiring a try.

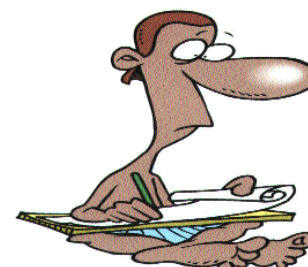
To our surprise, we realized that the talents were far from being scarce like we thought. More than 30 students signed up for the interviews. We were simply amazed. How could students refrain from using a readily available platform when they are so full of talents? How come not even 20% of these students contribute to the newspapers? Why wouldn't these students take the wonderful opportunity in three languages that other students elsewhere are dreaming of? Our surprise grew even bigger after the interviews. Every candidate was given 20 minutes to write on a subject that

animates and inspires them. The result was astounding. Most of the articles were publishable. Actually, after less than four hours, we had enough material to publish at least two newspapers...

Then you think; what did it take these students?

Put pen to paper for 20 minutes to write about something that stimulates them or relieves them? Neither impossible nor far-fetched.

Use the Suggestion Boxes!



Free Zone

Those Were The Days



By Mara Barrow

Although my college days seem long gone, occasionally I get a vivid memory of a special college moment. Usually the moment is sparked by something as unpredictable as a student's amusing comment in class; or something as trivial as trying to squeeze in a meal in between daily tasks.

Some memories come back with delight and a sense of wonder... how on earth did I work a full day and then head to evening courses, for years?

Others still remain unanswered... why did I

ever choose golf as an elective??

Perhaps the most persistent and nagging memory makes me long for what now seems the luxury of only studying...without thinking about bills to be paid and pressing career plans to be made. Those were indeed, the 'good ol' days' when what only mattered were deadlines, maintaining a productive social life and understanding the ins and outs of Second Language Acquisition, all discussed over endless cups of Starbucks.

To bring you a more rich and varied perspective on good ol' college days, I picked some brains around campus to find some "best and worst"

college experiences. Not surprisingly, I found some interesting and amusing college memories I'd like to share with you. Read on to find out more about the timeless universality of college life...

Kevin Smith (SSE) enjoyed "Playing basketball outside the dormitory at 11PM instead of studying for a test"...and loved "having...lots of friends."

He disliked "cafeteria food --some things never change" and remembers one day "coming in to a class (Probability and Statistics) to discover that there was a test that day that I had totally forgotten about! Fortunately, it was an open book test, so I still managed an A!"

Naomi Mardock (Language Center) says she

"loved everything I was doing at that time: reading all those books, writing papers, staying up late, studying at the library, studying at the coffee house, working an awful job just to have a little spending money, smoking cigarettes, meeting new people all the time, having never-ending conversations about religion, philosophy, politics, feminism and boyfriends -- which is everything I didn't like about that time, too!"

Anne Hasiuk (Library) was struck by "the realization that I could hear such wonderful lectures of educated people who had been to many lands and had done many interesting things. I was amazed that I could walk in any lecture and listen to descriptions of the wonders of the world."

Cherif Belfekih (DSA)

recounts the following unusual experience, from which he feels fortunate to have escaped unharmed!

"During the first semester my wife and I spent at Temple University, Philadelphia, we were invited by a faculty member to a Halloween party at his home. Another Moroccan and I decided to show off our heritage and dress in white djellabas and yellow slippers. Our wives had more sense and refused to dress in anything less than their regular western clothes. We arrived in the North Philadelphia neighborhood where this faculty member lived and had to park some distance from the house. We walked a couple of hundred meters down a deserted street. When our host opened the door, he could hardly hide his surprise at our outfit.

All American guests (dressed in jeans) explained to us that it was not smart to come dressed like Ku Klux Klan members in a predominantly black neighborhood. Thank God it was dark and we had not met anybody."

Omar Balafrej (G & M / Tech Park) remembers affectionately...

"those very long nights with friends, cheap food --pasta most of the time-- cheap drinks and debating about problems of the planet. The most fascinating thing about those conversations was that we always managed to rescue the world!" (in theory anyhow!)

However, a different story were the "8 o'clock class the day after the 'world rebuilding debates' - what an awful headache I always had!"