

IRAQ IN OUR HEARTS

The AUI News

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Editorial

We are in the middle of full fledged second Gulf War. While thousands of bombs are raining down on Iraq killing innocent civilians whose only fault were to be born in Iraq, the leaders of the coalition are calmly making their plans for the after-war.

And as the number of victim is growing every minute, leaders of antiwar movements keep mobilizing masses of people to protest against what's going on, and to raise funds to help the Iraqi people. Some of us are fed up of the propaganda war, wondering what and who to believe. The least we could do to show our involvement was to organize some vigil for peace actions and attend talks and lectures about the crisis. We are also expressing some students' position towards the current conflict through some mini-interviews.

Despite the chaos the world around us is encountering these days, the AUI community has kept up with its academic and extra-curricular activities. We are proud that our university is perpetuating the tradition of donating blood through a successful health awareness campaign. We are also glad that we finally have an official Alumni association that we hope will develop the relationship between the university and its former students and help prospective workers get on the market.

Every period of the semester has its burdens, the keyword this time was "pre-registration". Our clubs are always "on the go" with the visit of the environment club to Al Wahda Dam, the rich days organized by the Amazigh club, and the Bajeddoub night.

Some weeks only and the semester will be over. You can start feeling the pressure increasing as many projects and papers are due before the exams week. The weather is getting nicer and the nature around us is awakening, helping us keep an optimistic and positive mood. It is much more pleasant to have dinner, study or just hang out under the sunbeam, so take it easy!

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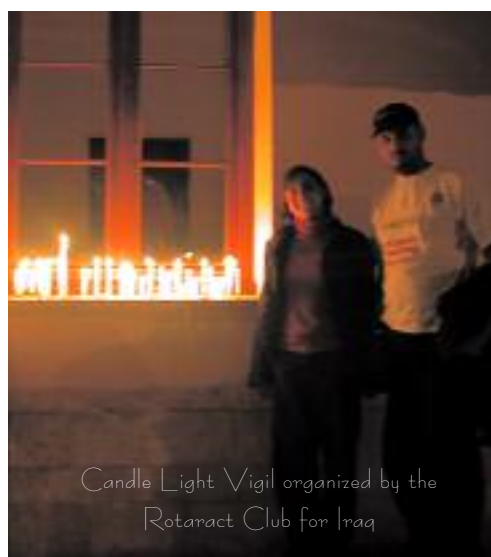
PREREGISTRATION: SUNDAY NIGHT FEVER

Mouaad Ibriz



PRAYING FOR IRAQ

Brahim Ouzineb



Candle Light Vigil organized by the Rotaract Club for Iraq

Now that we are preparing to publish our newspaper, the number of killed Iraqis are 3200. In a war where a total show is made up by Americans to kill anybody that would stand in their way. They bombarded civil buildings and now they extend their torture to journalists. In this way none would see the democracy brought back to Iraq. In this context the candle-light vigils and demonstrations done all over the world did not halt the US and Britain's blind desire to restore the Jungle Law. AUI students speak their stances about the issue in p.6-7

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SUNDAY NIGHT FEVER!!!

Mouaad Ibriz

Yes, Sunday night fever, not Saturday night fever. I didn't make a mistake. In fact, Sunday, March 9, 2003, we were around 50 students waiting in front of the game room for the security officers to come to register the names and give the numbers for those willing to pre-register for the summer 2003 session. However, things didn't turn out the way they should have, because a group of students who thought themselves to be smarter than the others created a list in which they were, obviously, the first to write their names. In fact, the list was ready by 9:00 PM, 12 hours before the usual time. A friend woke me up at 1:00am to tell me the joke (believe



me I thought it was a joke), so I went to the game room to verify, and I was real- ly surprised. Nobody could convince me of the rightness of this action, because they didn't have since the "brain

thinkers" went to sleep in order to come back at 5:55am and get their "visas to paradise", The others were either sleeping in the sofas, or discovering their laptops for the very first time, or more seriously preparing for their next day's exams or quizzes. Since I entered AUI I never experienced an unusual night waiting for my right -- our right - which is simply to pre-register for courses that I also confess don't fit our expectations. Before I finish I would just add that I personally understand the fact that students waited for their turn the whole night, but what my imagination could not comprehend is why some students created a list 12 hours before time.

IS IT REALLY FAIR?

Brahim Ouzineb

The SGA elections have shown once again that being an AUI student has to be an identity more than serving fictitious sermons in building 4. Surely people are soaked in high hopes before being confronted to the hard facts of the administration. Gradually, they get to forget or set aside their hopes and fall in latency. The different speakers whose majority is from the school of GE did not fail to remind us of the hate words of AUI students: restaurant, housing, credits. Of course all the problems were approached pragmatically to gain the electing body's sympathy. The talks centered on giving voice to more students which is fallacious as our culture is secretive. The people tend more and more to talk behind closed doors.

Some candidates wanted to know why the administration is casting a blind eye on the protested teaching body. Others promised a better and effective communication with the administration. The victim of the elections



undoubtedly is Souhail Berrada who did all what a typical candidate can to win votes. He was cast away at the end as he was winning the elections because of an academic problem. The funny thing was swarming of candidates near windows

of the game room to figure out whether Mr Fatmi's tick will be won by their name or their rivals'. As the boxes were emptied to end up a whole day of hard work to assure the transparency and the small democracy on campus, the candidates' heart beats quickened. Indeed the results were satisfactory to some and deceiving to others. It should be noted here that some voters did not know the candidates at all; they were just hassled into voting for this or that candidate. It is not a proper behavior and hopefully it would not happen again as it mars the image of the SGA. Up till now, the university has not been a mirror of the elections outside so do not let it be !!!



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OUR ENVIRONMENTALISTS SET FOR AL WAHDA DAM

Nizar El Ouarti
Serrar Alae Eddine



Saturday March 15th was a special day, because it was the day scheduled for a trip to al-Wahda dam, a place I've always heard about but never been to. We met at the parking lot at around 7:30 a.m. and, in the usual case, we had to wait for about 30 minutes for everybody to arrive. At around 8:00, the two vans set off for Tafrant, the village where the dam is located. Our first stop was in Imouzzer; guess why? To get film for the cameras.

The way to Tafrant was a bit tiresome, but the scenes on both sides of it were so gorgeous that we soon forgot about the road and focused our eyes on the green valleys. Habib, Abdellatif, Nizar, Hicham, Fahd, Hassan and Yassir couldn't resist the mania to take pictures. After about a 4-hour drive, we finally got to our destination: Tafrant. At first sight, the village seemed very ordinary, with nothing special to offer. But, when we saw the dam, we knew that the place was not any Moroccan village! At the municipi-

ality of Tafrant, we listened to explanations and asked questions about the dam. According to Mr Abdelghani ElOuarti, Nizar's uncle and the mayor of Tafrant, and to other personalities there present, Al-Wahda dam, the largest of its kind ever built in Morocco, was inaugurated by late King Hassan II on March 20, 1997. The earth-fill, hydroelectric, irrigation-water, and flood-control dam, located on the Ouergha river at some 60 km north of Fez, and 40 km south of Chefchaouen, is the second largest in Africa after the Assuan dam on the Nile River. It has a crest length of 2600m and a height of 88m, creating behind it a water basin of 123 sq.km. Its reservoir capacity reaches 3,800,000, 000 square meters. The power station, located at the top of the dam, includes three Francis turbines capable of generating a total of 400,000,000 kWh. The construction of the dam started in 1991 and it took almost 6 years to complete the project, the work being performed by a consortium of contractors comprised of two Italians, one Spaniard and one Russian.

At the municipality of Tafrant, we also had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Philippe, the MEDA (Mesures d'Accompagnements) coordinator in Morocco. Mr. Philippe is doing an investigation work at the region of Chefchaouen for a future development project in the area. The project,

after it is approved, will be financed by the European Union, in the larger framework of cooperation between the EU and countries of the Mediterranean, including Morocco. At around 12:30, and after listening to the various interesting explanations, we went on a walk to a mountain across the dam. We got on a boat and crossed the water to the other shore. We walked up the mountain and there, we really enjoyed the scene: a fancy huge lake inside a forest! The dam that looked relatively small from down the hill looks huge from up the mountain. Kilometers and kilometers of endless water going in various directions gave us a feeling about the greatness of the project! What was really astonishing was not only the sight of some 25-30 kg. fish jumping from time to time out of the water, in clear celebration of our arrival, but also the absence of any sort of tourist activities in the virgin area!

At 3:00 pm, we went back to the village where a delicious lunch was kindly offered to us by Nizar's family, a clear sign of generosity so characteristic of people of that region.

At 5:30, we started the journey back to Ifrane. We were all very tired when we got to campus at around 10:30 p.m. But, undoubtedly, we were also very happy, thanks to the Environment Club, because the trip was really worth it!

PRIDE AND DIGNITY THE CRUX OF MORROCAN-FRENCH RELATIONSHIPS

Mouaad Ibriz

Wednesday, February 19th 2003, his excellency Mr Frederic Grasset who is the present French Ambassador in Morocco honored the AUI community with an extremely interesting and fruitful speech. Mr Frederic Grasset, the French Ambassador to Morocco, stressed many points like the importance of cultural, scientific, educational, and technical cooperation. Furthermore, he pointed out the role of the AFD (Agence Francaise pour le



Development) in the implementation of many projects of development in

fields like agriculture, irrigation, pumping potable water, etc. In fact, he qualified French-Moroccan relations as: "Less than adhesion and more than association." One point that attracted my attention and that was actually very important is the post-colonial role in the development of Morocco and the fulfillment of the colonial vision and said: "Nowadays in the world, there are no more acquired advantages [...] meaning that there are no acquired advantages that the colonizer can preserve after the so-called "protectorate period".

"AUI-A-A", A BRIDGE CONSTRUCTED, A GAP FILLED

Qods Benjelloun

For a first official homecoming event, our alumni students were lucky that it fell on the sunniest weekend we've seen up till now. The first groups of alumni students started to show up on Friday morning, and you could see them as happy to meet old friends as curious to take a tour on campus to see what has changed and what has not. I was a bit surprised to see many freshmen, and even some sophomore and junior students asking what does the word alumni mean. It is true that this word is not yet familiar to us as it is for

American students, since it is the first time we are making related alumni events official. The word alumni (singular is alumnus) is a generic term that describes all those who have spent some time studying at a particular institution. Therefore, anyone who has studied at AUI for at least 1 year is an AUI Alumnus. The relationship between any university and its Alumni remains important because all the academic knowledge and experience gained at the university reflects itself in the Alumni's professional environment,

and therefore also reflect on the university. For this reason, to contribute dynamically in advancing the university holds personal benefits, since the significance of your qualification is related to the social and academic standing of your "mother" institution or university. In addition to that, you can help achieve a quality education for all by helping the university development and perpetuation.

To go back to our alumni event, the AUI Alumni Association was officially launched on March 15th. The whole process took place in building 17 and started by the Alumni and Career Orientation officer, Ms Benseddik, followed by President Benmokhtar's speech. The potential members of the AUI Alumni Association then took the floor to present their plan of actions and objectives before the electoral process begun.

The best part for the alumni students was for sure the broadcast of a short film

about the university and its alumni: a lot of nostalgia, loud laughing and emotions. The elections ambience was cozy and the Members of the first Board of Officers of the AUI Alumni Association were as follows: Hanane El Gane, Youssef Benslim, Redouane Tazi, and Salim Zekri. The party that was organized in the gymnasium to honor our dear alumni started late, probably because most people went downtown. "It feels more like a party for teenagers, than for people already struggling in the job market" said an alumnus in a smile. Continuing students and specially freshmen were definitely having a lot of fun and enjoying more. On Sunday, a meeting was held in the game room where the current job market situation and internships were discussed, and although most of the alumni left early in the morning, the remaining ones could taste what became almost sacred, for they were waiting for it and deprived from it for many years... the swimming pool.



DONATION FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Imane El Fechtani

Scared, with a feeling of hesitation, I went to face this experience. It was my first time, and I have heard that it is not as scary as I thought, but still I could not stop this fear inside. I walked in front of the game room, looking for a friend to share with me this experience, but I did not find anyone, so I continued my way to the cafeteria. There, I found a friend. I asked her to come with me to try this, because inside, I had a feeling that I had to do it; maybe it would help someone in need for

BLOOD. Unfortunately she refused, and I was in the

middle, should I go alone? Should I face my fear? And I

decided to be strong and to go; after all, I am like the others. I walked to the game room with hesitating steps... and here I was in front of the door, and I saw a man responsible of the campaign, he encouraged me to come in. I was looking around, looking at people's faces who already donated their blood and who were still laying down. It was not that scary : so I felt stronger. I didn't feel the time till I found myself going out of the game room. It was over. And I felt happy to donate my blood.



- ARE YOU FOR OR AGAINST THE WAR?
- WHY?
- WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES ON THE WORLD ECONOMY?

*Imane El Fechtani
Najat Biddi*

Aimee Mc Andrews (SHSS, undergrad-uate):



I am against the war and there are a lot of reasons behind this standpoint. First of all, I feel that war hasn't

been justified, I feel like it was based on speculations. And I feel like George bush and his administration want to secure power and hegemony in the Middle East, and they have other economic and political interests. I think that it is horrible that Iraqi people are going to be harmed. Undoubtedly, this war is just to devastate Iraq. I can not say much about the effects on the economy, because it is

not my field, but I think it will have a huge impact. It won't be positive but it will cause a real fiasco. Definitely Iraq will be devastated. I can just speak for the United States, it will not be good for the economy, I think that money will be taken from other sectors instead of creating jobs in other sectors, we already have billions going to the military and just more money is going to be wasted on the military.

Kaoutar (BA, Undergraduate)



I am against the war because the arguments that USA gives to relieve Iraq of the dictatorship of Saddam do not

stand on firm grounds since it is an internal problem of Iraq. Only Iraqi people can solve it if they feel like doing so. In addition to this, Iraq does not contain any destructive weapons, if it was the case they would have used them against USA and UK attacks, instead of letting them destroy the country and kill citizens.

Robert Shenk (SHSS, Undergraduate):

I am definitely against the war because I feel that it is not properly justified, I don't think destroying weapons of mass destruction and taking out a regime is an excuse to invade the entire country and destroy several buildings and kill many civilians as well as sacrifice lives of many soldiers. As far as the economy goes, I think it won't be affected that



much it may hurt it in the short run but it will

end up helping the economy of the United States in the long run.

Khawla (SSE, undergraduate):



I am against the war because for me it is unfair; there is no credible reason for attacking Iraq. Also, I

think that Iraq do not have weapons since USA do not have real proofs that show that Iraq has chemical weapons. And also I also think that Iraq destroyed everything that they had. Accordingly, it is cruel what we see in TV. In addition, there will be a catastrophe in the world economy and mostly for the Arab world. For Morocco more specifically, there would be a serious problem since our country relies on tourism.

Mohammed Tatari (GE, undergraduate)

Of course, I am against the war because of one reason



that is that the USA is against the mass destruction weapons the Iraq may have; however, it is using those destructive weapons against Iraq so this war has absolutely no reason. Sure, it will affect the economy of the whole world because the USA is losing money in the war. It needs to recover this money and it will affect the economy of the world.

Amal (MBA)

I am against the war in Iraq and it is not because I am supporting Saddam. It is because of his dictatorial regime. In fact, I feel that the war is veering now to be against Muslims and not Saddam. It's obvious, since the coalition American British army is attacking residential areas

and killing innocent people. But hopefully, the fake universal judge, is getting hurt as long as it hurts Muslims.



Mahi Said (SHSS, Graduate):

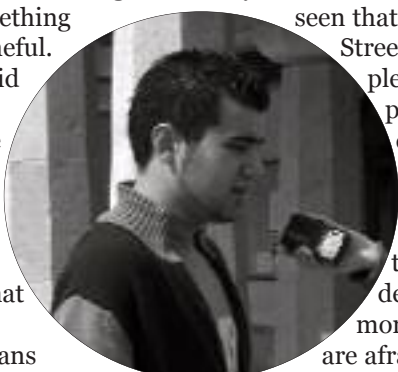
I am against the war, of course. First of all because it violates the regulations of the United Nations, it's not legitimate nor is it approved by the international community. I think the United States is now doing only the things it pleases. It had invaded Iraq; I don't tolerate this, not as an Arab but as a member of the international community. I think that the consequences are going to be dev-



astating, if the United States got hold of the oil, it will dominate the world, it will manipulate the oil market which is not really beneficial for all the countries and all the people around the world. I don't think that the Moroccan economy will suffer because the Moroccan economy is not so much dependent on oil but I think that it is more probable that it is the Middle Eastern countries and oil exporting countries that will suffer much.

Ghali Abdullah (SHSS, undergraduate):

I think that the war against Iraq is something really shameful. America said it was supposed to be a clean war, but we see all the time in the news that it is really about civilians and all kinds of stuff. So of course I'm against this war. But at the same time, I'm for taking away Saddam from power, this is because I think Saddam is not doing good things for his country



in the economic level, he is kind of a dictator. It will for sure affect the world economy, and we have already seen that in Wall Street for example we have points lost due to this war. And also, for Morocco, tourism has decreased this month, people are afraid to come to a Muslim country due to the war. I think this war won't affect the image of the Muslims around the world negatively since Muslims appear as victims.

THE LEGITIMACY OF THE USA WAR AGAINST IRAQ

Najat Biddi

Before the start of the war, the USA and the World community were debating through the intervention of the international organization, the United Nations, about the destruction of the weapons stockpile of mass destruction in Iraq. Indeed, the UN 1441 resolution claimed the necessity of disarmament of Iraq by enhancing

Germany, and Belgium. The UN did not enunciate a second resolution that authorizes a war against Iraq. Yet, the USA helped with its eternal advocate led an attack against Iraq starting from the 20th of March, 2003. According to Mr. Phil Scraton, the director of Edge Hill College's centre for studies in crime and social justice,

Since the start of this war, civilian locations have been targeted and Iraqi innocents paid the price. Until today, the USA and UK lead war did not reveal real facts about the strategy of the USA to remove the dictatorship regime. Considering the fact that this war might last for long, the bill of victims is supposed to increase while the removal of the Saddam regime remains questionable.

"Without international debate the US has stretched the definition of self-defense beyond anything recognisable regarding claims for a just war." Besides, he says that "It comes as no surprise and reflects US and UK collusion over the bombing of civilians in

The President of the European Commission, Mr. Romano Prodi drew attention to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Iraq. Due to the war, several people are without food, clothing, shelter and without access to clean drinking water.

an inspection regime carried out by the U.N. Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This resolution did not assert the right of a unilateral reaction on the part of the USA to invade the Iraq and initiate war.

Afghanistan, the post-war atrocities of the Northern Alliance, the holding of now 'stateless' prisoners at Guantanamo Bay and the internment without trial of suspected 'terrorists' under hastily drafted anti-terrorism laws." He mentioned that "Taken together we are witnessing an uncompromising rejection of UN authority and international law, agreements and conventions in the name of freedom and justice."

After twelve years of Embargo and the implementation of the UN oil-for-food program, the Iraq incurred a negative growth rate of -0.6 % (2001) (according to the European Commission statistics) and an external debt of US\$ 62.2 billion (2001). While the Security Council adopted by unanimity the resumption of the UN oil-for-food program, can the economy of Iraq bear other dramatic slow-downs, and can the people of Iraq survive to a war that might last more than 6 weeks with the continuous fear of Iraqi families that a bomb or a missile might crash their homes?

THE "ARE" IN FEZ

Serrar Alae Eddine

In a growing number of developing countries, civil society is becoming a full partner of the government in the overall development process. In Morocco, civil society organizations increasingly influence decision makers, and more specifically advance particular initiatives of the state's regional work plans to sustain development. These associations or NGOs have strengthened their presence in the last decade especially after the initiation of the decentralization policy. This policy has successfully broadened the scope of action open to civic initiatives and local, organized activities. In its wake more and more civic associations have been formed, and these initiatives have also been active in the field of environmental protection, especially in highly populated urban areas like the Medina of Fez, where environmental issues are stark.

Fez: A World Heritage in Danger

In 1976, UNESCO, at its General Conference in Nairobi, announced the active safeguarding of the 12th century Medina of Fez. As an old-age heritage, with its wealth of diversity, conveying authentic craftsmanship which testifies to the past of the Western Mediterranean, Fez represents a living memory of humanity. At every corner of its streets, in every building, however modest, lies a sign of the past, the expression of the imagination and lifestyle of the ancestors. The vitality of its trading and craft districts still constitute, in spite of all the vicissitudes, the dynamism and survival of that heritage.

The Medina of Fez, however, with its several kilometers of ramparts and its numerous

districts is experiencing excessive population density, which has a devastating impact on the local environment. While the main administrative buildings are located in the modern city, economic activity has developed particularly in the historical city. These two aspects have combined to deteriorate the historical districts and to destroy the traditional ways in which the urban area was occupied. Vast dwellings have been divided up, demolished and rebuilt in an altogether different manner. The phenomenon of 'foundouquisation' is gaining ground. As a consequence, the architectural heritage has become degraded and is gradually losing its value and aesthetic qualities. That is why it is absolutely important to study the initiatives taken so far within the context of the safeguarding of this historical city, in which Moroccan NGOs play an important role.

The Project of the Rehabilitation of the Historic Medina of Fez

The historic Medina of Fez is listed as a World Heritage site. It is one of six historic centers selected for a pilot initiative by UNESCO and the World Bank for reconstruction. Such a big project requires the collaboration and coordination of efforts among organizations involved in conserving and developing the city. A clearly defined intervention strategy needs to be implemented to ensure the continuity of the Medina of Fez in terms of its vitality and heritage value and to preserve the harmony which has always been its distinguishing feature. This venture requires the commitment and involvement of all the actors concerned, first and foremost the inhabitants of the Medina who hold the

keys to success.

The 'Association of Residential Environment (ARE)' Fez: A partner in the Rehabilitation Project

June 1996 saw the foundation of one of the first NGOs in the field of environment in the Medina of Fez, the 'Association of Residential Environment', that had been active long before the implementation of the rehabilitation process. To a great extent, this organization has depended for its existence on modest inhabitants of this city and their commitment to

of problems and, hence, increasing the process of decay spurred by pollution. Crowded conditions in such an urban area provide the ideal environment for the culture and spread of dangerous diseases.

Sensitization of the public has been one of the major roles that the non-governmental organization has been active in. Through fieldwork (including district cleaning, garbage collection, sanitation, painting of houses etc), revenue generating operations, anti-environ-

the architectural heritage has become degraded and is gradually losing its value and aesthetic qualities. That is why it is absolutely important to study the initiatives taken so far within the context of the safeguarding of this historical city

the 'local environment' cause. It was created to deal with local environmental issues that are addressed neither by the state nor by the private sector and that are simply focused on by all men and women who are moved by solidarity in the Fez society. This NGO, as any other civil society organization, is based on a common concept: the concept of a free and responsible individual who takes his or her destiny into his own hands and endeavors to solve his own problems.

The main reason behind the creation of this association was the deterioration of the old Medina's environment due to the great increase in population. The waste generated by this dense population has caused heavy environmental pollution that has, in its turn, posed the greatest threat to the health and safety of local residents. Some handicraft activities are ruining the environment, creating or intensifying a variety

mental degradation campaigns (including lectures, projection of video-taped programs about environment), ARE has been able to raise, at least partly, consciousness on the grass-roots level about the environment resource protection, and the commitment of citizens to the environment cause, things it had sought to achieve before its creation.

In partnership with the conservation agencies ADER-FEZ and GMF-FEZ, ARE has also been involved in a case-study documentation. Everyday, members of this organization, sometimes accompanied by a technical assistant, examine cases of decaying apartments, identifying and selecting problems that will receive reconstruction intervention in an order of priority, and also preparing proposals for infrastructure improvements concerning every single case.

In parallel with its actual environmental objectives, ARE has also been interested

in cultural, sports as well as art activities. In this respect, the association has been equally active. Since its establishment, ARE has organized tens of sport competitions as well as cultural and artistic events, especially for the children of the old Medina, who do not find many entertainment possibilities in their deteriorating city.

The demonstrated effectiveness of this local NGO has earned it local, national as well as international recognition. Improvements are continuing and the organization is expanding in a 'decentralized' sense. In this respect, several operational neighborhood committees (or 'widadiyat') have been created under the auspices of ARE. These committees engage the energies of every single resident for the promotion of sociocultural and environmental development at the neighborhood level. The ARE, working closely with every committee's leadership, followed and encouraged the development of these small organizations and monitored changes in their organizational framework. Through close interaction and collaborative work, these committees have emphasized the importance of public partnership and citizen

participation in small infrastructure improvement projects, and have, thus, assisted ARE in its general and more encompassing objectives. However, ARE and all its neighborhood committees, with all their strength, lack of material resources because the social and environmental



problems, particularly those that are to be met by NGO, are far too numerous, whereas the financial resources are limited. This situation reflects a social and economic situation in which, for large segments of the population of the old Medina, the struggle for survival is the primary concern. A population 70 per cent of which (or more) lives below the poverty line will, in its struggle for existence, not all be overly concerned with questions of environmental and resource protection. The

achievements so far reached continue to be poor, as do the association's capacities to mobilize, both morally and financially, broad segments of the population for their goals. Expert seminars, relatively small rehabilitation projects, along with environmental education and publicity work

environmental policy in Fez will remain patchy and limited in scope. In wait for the World-Bank/UNESCO seemingly effective strategy, however, the activism and commitment of ARE remain positive.

The future of the environment in the Medina of Fez, even after the carrying out of the rehabilitation project, will be determined by ARE and other similar key civil society decision-makers, including individuals, institutions, and the general public. The anticipated outcome of its six years of operation should lead to a better understanding and greater appreciation of the role that civil society can play in the national development process, and hence more recognition and respect much needed for its success in its day to day fight. On the national level, there needs to be a departure from the current situation of scattered NGOs that have been created according to the relevancy of the past to a community movement, which will meet common values and face common challenges, and that will contribute to the development and the implementation of real community projects for a modern and rational society moved by the spirit of solidarity.

MONTREAL VIEWED BY AN AUI STUDENT

Kaoutar Berrada



Montreal is specially renowned for its cultural wealth. Diversity features well this city in terms of languages, origins and traditions. The Canadian government does indeed its best to highlight all its strengths.

Because this city is cosmopolitan, there can be clashes of certain cultures. An example of clash is the astonishment one could have towards the use of old French, when discovering this city. Nevertheless, the persons who have just settled in Montreal should accept Canadians' differ-

ent mindset and be tolerant. This positive behaviour will enable them to integrate themselves into this new society. An organization which impacts the meeting of cultures is the IAM (International Academic Mobility). This latter will definitely have a great influence on the educational program launched by the Canadian government in the 21st Century. It is a plan which mainly intends to exchange innovation and information with foreign countries. Not only people will be able to enrich their knowledge, but they will unwittingly contribute to the development of the economy. Moreover, we are well-informed of the current news, since there is a huge diversity of newspapers and magazines in Montreal. This gives people the opportunity to build their own

viewpoint, especially when a war of information is threatening its reliability. Another advantage of this city is that you can go to New York in just one hour and 20 minutes by plane. Many other benefits could be cited about this wonderful and animated city. This latter contains the highest number of French speakers after France. As a result, people are bilingual or they can even speak more languages, which strengthens worldwide communication. At last, we can underline the wide variety of culinary styles. You can find 4000 restaurants all from 80 different countries, which offer diverse tastes and flavours. In a word, the cultural "treasures" of Montreal grab the interest of millions of people all over the world.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONFLICT

Taylor Heard

My experience in Morocco has been a study in challenges. My first semester was spent adjusting to different languages, new social customs and a rather challenging new environment as a whole. This semester has largely been challenging in a different way. It has been principally challenging as I attempt to reconcile the conflict within myself over the current Gulf War. I am not in agreement with the current American administration's policy on Iraq. I would certainly have preferred a solution that avoided war. However, now that war has been declared, I feel strongly that I must support my countrymen as they prosecute this war as quickly and humanely (if that is not an oxymoron) as possible. Throughout both semesters of this unexpectedly emotional and stretching experience, I have appreciated the help, fellowship and support of numerous AUI faculty, staff and students. For this

support, I cannot express the full extent of my gratitude. This is all not intended to imply that this year has been a fairy tale. Whereas last semester's main period of tension occurred during the month of Ramadan, that level of tension has pervaded this semester. Being a tall, white, American in a predominantly Arab nation has always warranted a number of stares and comments. However, the current state of war has made such a situation more imposing and, perhaps, more repressive. Even within this isolated "city on a hill," I have felt a distinct change in students' reaction to me. If this seems overly reactionary, please think about how you feel and react after watching a broadcast outlining purported American atrocities on certain television stations. Those feelings cannot

help but carry over into your contact with others and particularly with non-Moroccans. When people make anti-war statements, it is all too easy for them (hypothetical non-Americans) and for me (as an American citizen) to ignore the distinction between Americans and the American administration. Furthermore, when people make comments about the "Americans" wanting to cause collateral damage in this current conflict and kill innocent civilians, I often wonder if they implicitly think the same of me. It just so happens that my face is familiar because of proximity not because of television, but I am still an American.



In my opinion, the most beneficial aspect of my Moroccan experience this year has been my new awareness and appreciation

of the differences between Middle Eastern and Western cultures as well as my recognition of the innate beauties of the Moroccan culture. The hospitality and the warmth of Moroccan familial relationships are an amazing thing to observe and an even more amazing thing to experience. I just ask that students continue to demonstrate the tolerance for which their society is so well known and recognize that people everywhere are fallible and often innocent of the intentions ascribed to them. My passport and my upbringing do not make me a warmonger imperialist any more than yours make you a terrorist on holy war. The most outspoken and polemic members of our societies should not overly color our relationships and reactions to each other. Unfortunately, it is all too easy and convenient to stereotype people. I hope that we can all try and do better in the future.

REMEMBER RACHEL

Nurddin Kashif



As I walked through the campus of Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington one day in December, I was stopped by a tall, slender, and bright girl named Rachel Corrie.

We conversed momentarily about what projects we were working on for our programs, but this dialogue was interrupted by a subject more pertinent. Earlier that month I had met with a delegation from my college, who were affiliated with the International Solidarity Movement. The delegation was presenting a proposal for relief work in The Occupied Territories of Palestine. Members of the International Solidarity Movement, at this meeting, were formulating an agenda and outlining objectives for their travel to Rafah, in the Gaza Strip. Some of the representatives of the International Solidarity Movement had already been to Gaza and other areas of Palestine and had witnessed firsthand, the oppression and illegal settlement occu-

pation by the Israeli government. This meeting was where Rachel and I had first been introduced and exchanged contact information.

When Rachel and I intersected again, the travel to Gaza was the topic of the bulk of our discussion. I told her that if I did not receive a scholarship to come to Morocco I would go with them. She smiled and said "I hope you get the scholarship, but then again I hope you don't because I want you to come with us." For me this was a compliment and an indication of Rachel's personality: sincere and dedicated to her cause. As destiny dictates I got the scholarship and Rachel and the delegation from Olympia, Washington went to Gaza.

On Sunday March 16, 2003, Rachel was protesting the bulldozing of a Palestinian physician's house in Rafah. Rachel was wearing a neon orange construction jacket while talking through a loud speaker, so there was no way she could not have been seen by the Jewish-driven, American-made bulldozer. Despite Rachel's pleas for the bulldozer to stop, the enormous machine proceeded toward her. The ground beneath Rachel's feet was dug up

by the bulldozer and consequently Rachel fell. Without lifting its blade the bulldozer plowed over the defenseless body of Rachel and then reversed again inflicting further damage on her fragile body. According to one witness, "The bulldozer put sand on her and kept crushing her." The effects of the damage on Rachel's body were devastating as she began to hemorrhage. Rachel, shortly after this incident, died in a Rafa hospital from the complications of this brutal killing.

Rachel Corrie was 23 years old when she died in the struggle for the liberation of the Palestinian people. Rachel Corrie is a symbol of bravery, who died for her conviction that the Israeli army should, "Stop shooting innocent children" and end the illegal occupation of the Palestinian land. It is amazing how a non-Muslim was willing to die for the Palestinian cause, not because she shared a common ethnicity or religion, but because she shared common feelings toward injustice and oppression. Rachel's death has given me inspiration and I will always remember her. To unrelentingly stand up for justice is the trait of the courageous and the legacy of the courageous never dies.

THE TILLEULS INCIDENT

Mouaad Ibriz

Q. What is the official version of the incident that happened in "Tilleuls" Saturday, March 8th 2003?

A. I'm not entitled to give you the official version, the official version is the one given by the authority. But, what I can give you is what the University knows. On Sunday 19th in the morning we knew that during the previous night there has been a police raid in "Tilleuls" but I'm not sure if it was in the Bar or the dancing floor or some part in the Tilleuls and a lot of people were taken to the police station for ID checks; some of them were students at AUI who were handed over to the AUI security. It was not a University action, it was done by the police and I think they knew what they were doing; they didn't send us a report about the action since we have nothing to do with "Tilleuls". It's governed by the law of the land just like any other business in town. That is as much as we know about the incident

Q. The fact that the University cast a deaf ear on what happened that night, students pushed students to conclude that it was a "scheme" by the University.

A. What did they expect the University to do? What can the University do when the police try to enforce the law of the land? Can we go to the police and say these are AUI students so don't touch them? We couldn't do that, and when the police got in touch with us and said we have some AUI students come and pick them up, the AUI security went to the police station and brought them by vans to the University. I don't think that the University could have done more, It's not expected to do more. People go there by choice and they assume their responsibilities. If they need help in the sense that they were walking and somebody attacked them and called for help and the security does not move, then they can say that the University didn't help. But in the case of "Tilleuls", students were in a police custody, we, the University, cannot go to the police and ask them to please release these people, they are our students. When they checked their ID's, they called us and

said come and collect them, then our security went and picked them up.

Q. Since the activities offered on campus didn't show any concrete results in keeping people on campus instead of going outside, does the University think of an alternative to Tilleuls?

A. People should not think of Tilleuls as

Can we go to the police and say these are AUI students so don't touch them?

a branch of the student activities office. We don't care how students spend their free time outside the University provided they stick to the University regulations and do not engage in anything that damages the image of the University's student. To us, we do a lot of things on campus, we offer a lot of



activities. However, students say that they want to do things outside, fine, we do not have anything to do with that. But, if they want to leave the campus, students should not expect the University to provide them with activities outside campus. That's their choice, if they like what we have here they can stay, but if they want they can go away on weekends to their home towns or to another town. But they should know

that whatever choices they make they are accountable to the authorities, just like any other citizen or resident in this country.

Q. A couple of weeks before, an unusual ID check in the main gate was conducted at 10:45?

A. It was at 11:30. I notice that there is too much rumor in here. I saw the security report, the ID check started at 11:30 not 10:45 even though the time does not matter here as the university has the right to check IDs at any time for security reasons. I explained this to the students that came to see me the next day. The university has a lot at stake here so we have to make sure that the people who enter the university are people who are allowed. Anybody can sneak in if the security does not have a close look at the individuals who enter. Therefore, the university should conduct systematic checks and students should not feel offended or worry about. If they enter before curfew time, have their IDs on them and are allowed in the university, their complaints become much ado about nothing.

Q. Do you have a Final word explaining to students their dues and duties?

A. Our students should bear in mind that we are here to protect them. Maybe they do not realize this now but once they leave the university, they will understand the importance of our deed. I would like to add that it is mandatory to respect the university's regulations. As much as we are lenient towards their slight mistakes, as much as we cannot tolerate the ill-behavior of students that goes against the university's tenets. The students as well have to protect an image of the institution in which they study as that plays a huge role in the recruitment process.

We don't care how students spend their free time outside the University provided they stick to the University regulations

WE NEED THOSE NUTRIENTS

Fatim Zahra Brown

Two people who are very close to me suffered from hidden cases of malnutrition. Not the type of malnutrition of people who are starving or in poverty, but the type that can happen to almost anyone.

On one extreme, one of these people always ate junk food for snacks and sometimes in the place of a proper meal. And on the other extreme, the other person went on a strict low fat, low cholesterol, and low sugar diet. Both of them exercised regularly. In fact, the second person participated in rigorous sports training program. The first person, because she

didn't eat three proper meals every day, she ended up putting her studies in jeopardy. She was unable to study efficiently and even ended up



walking out of a final exam. And the second person also jeopardized his studies because he ended up having

to spend some time in the hospital. This was due to symptoms he was having from his diet of mostly carbohydrates and lack of protein.

Both of these diets can cause a chemical imbalance in the body. This imbalance causes stress to reach high levels, and also can cause slight disorientation in the brain. This is why the first person was unable to study efficiently.

The second person ended up

having symptoms more on the physical side. The lack of protein, fat, and other essential things in his diet caused his stress level to increase and he ended up having a painful case of stomach cramps.

What I learnt from these two situations is that you cannot underestimate the importance of nutrition. Diet and exercise has to be balanced and you need to eat a certain number of calories based on how active you are. These two people who I mentioned were very fit and athletic, but this wasn't enough to ensure good health...they also need to eat right, and so do we.

EMERGENCE OF A NEW STRAIN OF VIRUS, SARS

Najat Biddi

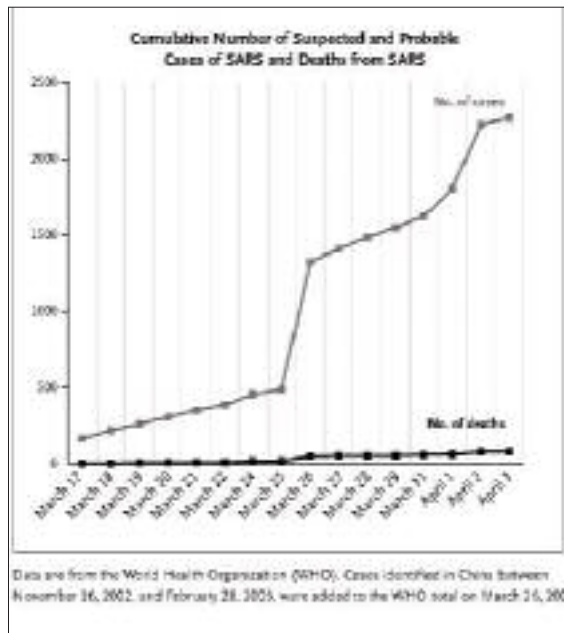
Referred to as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, SARS caused an unexplained worldwide epidemic pneumonia. This new strain seems to come from coronavirus family which is known to be the second leading cause of common cold in humans.

In Toronto, many of the homes suspected of being exposed to illness might be quarantined. A school in Ontario was closed till 31th of March after several students have had symptoms consistent with the one of SARS. It is believed that the syndrome appeared last year in southern China and before showing up in Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, Canada and Germany in recent weeks, infecting hundreds. Suspicious cases have also been recorded in the United States, Britain, France, Australia and Japan.

Scientists at the World Health Organisation (WHO) identified two common viruses as "very strong contenders" for the cause.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the symptoms

of the illness begin with a fever greater than 38C°. It is sometimes associated with chills or other symptoms, including headache, malaise, and body aches.



Data are from the World Health Organization (WHO). Cases identified in China between November 16, 2002, and February 28, 2003, were added to the WHO total on March 26, 2003.

Some persons suffer from mild respiratory symptoms at the beginning. After 3 to 7 days, the person may develop a dry, nonproductive cough that might be

accompanied by or progress to the point where insufficient oxygen is getting to the blood. In 10%--20% of cases, patients will require mechanical ventilation.

In early stages of investigations, it is still early to identify the way the illness is transmitted.

The Coronavirus has a crown-like appearance when viewed under a microscope. It causes mild to moderate respiratory illness and is associated with respiratory, gastrointestinal, liver and neurologic disease in animals.

The CDC scientists isolated a virus in the tissues of two patients. When analyzed by electron microscopy, the analysis revealed that the virus had the distinctive shape and appearance of coronaviruses. Genetic tests show that the identified virus belongs to the family of coronaviruses, but differs from previously identified coronaviruses

Yet, there is no conclusive evidence that the new coronavirus is the cause of SARS.

A PALESTINIAN DIARY

Taufiq El Ouali

I was born in Bethlehem, a small Palestinian city. At that time, Palestine was at the hands of the British government. They called the British "colonizers", because they were far from their land and were treating my fellow Palestinians very badly. My father later explained to me what does the word colonization mean. He was my teacher. It was thanks to him that I became a well educated woman.

At the age of 7, I started to ask myself questions such as "Why do some people hurt others?" "Why do they deprive humans like them from their land? Their homes and their rights?" I could not get any answer, except what my father told me "lust for power, wealth and superiority".

I married at the age of 16. My husband, a young Palestinian, was a very active member of, what was called then, the Palestinian movement of liberation. Many times, I witnessed "secret meetings" of the members of the movement in our house - which I called later all Palestinians house.

Immediately after the end of World War II, we were surprised to hear that our land - Palestine - had to be divided between the Jews and us. More than this, the Jews were given the biggest part. At that time, I gave birth to my first child whom I called Mohamed. The struggle against the British was getting to an end. Finally, the British withdrew from Palestine, but not until they secured the settlement of the Jews, who proclaimed Palestine their land and called it Israel. Later, I learned that the British promised the Jews years before that they would provide them with their "promised land". A promise called

"Balfour Declaration".

Our city, like all Palestinian cities, did not accept the "new colonizer". The struggle this time was against our everlasting opponents "the Jews". The day I gave birth to my second boy was also the day I lost my husband. He died in an open fight with the new colonizers. I would never forget the feeling of despise I felt after his death towards the "killers". I decided to name my newborn boy after his father, Kamal. My first boy was then 4.

I decided to take my husband's path and joined the movement of liberation. I married my second husband four years later. I was then 26 years old. My two boys were 8 and 4. We were so much concerned about the future of our children than ours, as we knew that the struggle would last for a very long time. In 1964, our movement along with other Palestinian

movements joined their efforts and established what is called "The Palestine Liberation Organization". At the time, I had already five boys and a girl. My eldest boy had taken his father's path and joined the struggle for liberation of our dear country. I did not object to that; on the contrary, I was proud of myself. I gave birth to heroes. Later, all my children were heroes, "martyrs", and soldiers of God.

I lost my first boy in the 1967 war. Then I lost my second in the 1973 war. My other children were then still young but were called along with other kids, "The children of stones".

My grief for my children did not stop me from my nation-

al duty. I kept on struggling and encouraging every Palestinian, man and woman, to fight with whatever God gave them. I lost my girl on a bombing in Bethlehem.

My fourth child died in a street fight with the occupants. He was throwing stones. They were shooting bullets.

I lost my other children along with my two legs in another bombing, in which my house was destructed.

I still keep on struggling, if not with my body, then with

I see the sky turn clear and blue

I see dreams become green and true

Wake up, O you fools
Wake up and use your tools

Free yourselves and free your minds

Free your kids and clean your hands

Long lives Palestine
Land of buried martyrs of yours and mine

You and me, and the entire



my voice,
Long lives my Palestine,
Land of buried children of yours and mine
Long Live Palestine
Where olives grow and clementine
Long lives Palestine
Home of yours and mine

I see now Palestine is free
I see now freedom of you and me

world
Are witnesses of what we hold

Lives of generations of yours and mine
Are cheap prices for our Palestine

Long lives Palestine
Land of buried martyrs of yours and mine

Dear Readers,

Please send us back your comments and suggestions. They are valuable to us. Remember The AUI News is for and by you, students

<p>Across</p> <p>1. Alex Cross' cat</p> <p>6. Alex Cross' employer</p> <p>9. A royal decree</p> <p>10. Waist accessory</p> <p>11. Alex Cross' and John Sampson's occupations</p> <p>13. Said yes</p> <p>14. South African fighter</p> <p>15. Jack & _____</p> <p>17. Something Mork might say (1x)</p> <p>18. Alex Cross' nemesis</p> <p>24. Ones (Sp.)</p> <p>25. Alex Cross' son</p> <p>26. _____ O' War</p> <p>27. Maria's West Side Story sister</p> <p>Down</p> <p>1. Roses are _____</p> <p>2. Laudatory poem</p>		<p>3. Command to a dog</p> <p>4. Solid water</p> <p>5. Too many examples to list</p> <p>6. Illness</p> <p>7. Hemorrhaged</p> <p>8. Contraction of "it" and "is"</p> <p>10. Two-wheeled transport</p> <p>12. Hammer, e.g.</p> <p>14. The color of the sky, on a nice day.</p> <p>15. _____ and the Argonauts</p> <p>16. Football stat (abbr.)</p> <p>17. _____ Mama aka Regina Hope Cross</p> <p>18. The Queen's mother</p> <p>19. Reader's Digest Association (abbr.)</p> <p>20. John Sampson's nickname: Mountain _____</p> <p>21. La Boheme tragic heroine M_ _ _</p> <p>22. Forget-me-_____</p> <p>23. Genetic code</p>
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HOROSCOPE

Page prepared by *Imane El Fechtani*

<p>Aries: (March 21 - April 20) <i>Good side:</i> Adventurous and energetic Pioneering and courageous Enthusiastic and confident Dynamic and quick-witted</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Selfish and quick-tempered Impulsive and impatient Foolhardy and daredevil</p> <p>Taurus: (April 21- May 21) <i>Good side:</i> Patient and reliable Warmhearted and loving Persistent and determined Placid and security loving</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Jealous and possessive Resentful and inflexible Self-indulgent and greedy</p> <p>Gemini: (May 22-June 21) <i>Good side:</i> Adaptable and versatile Communicative and witty Intellectual and eloquent Youthful and lively</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Nervous and tense Superficial and inconsistent Cunning and inquisitive</p> <p>Cancer: (June 22- July 21)</p>	<p>Leo: (July 23_ August 23) <i>Good side:</i> Generous and warmhearted Creative and enthusiastic Broad-minded and expansive Faithful and loving</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Pompous and patronizing Bossy and interfering Dogmatic and intolerant</p> <p>Vigro (August 22-September 22) <i>Good side:</i> Modest and shy Meticulous and reliable Practical and diligent Intelligent and analytical</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Fussy and a worrier Overcritical and harsh Perfectionist and conservative</p> <p>Libra: (September 24 - October 23) <i>Good side:</i></p>	<p>Diplomatic and urbane Romantic and charming Easygoing and sociable Idealistic and peaceable</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Indecisive and changeable Gullible and easily influenced Flirtatious and self-indulgent</p> <p>Scorpio: (October 24 - November 22) <i>Good side:</i> Determined and forceful Emotional and intuitive Powerful and passionate Exciting and magnetic</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Jealous and resentful Compulsive and obsessive Secretive and obstinate</p> <p>Sagittarius: (November 23 - December 21) <i>Good side:</i> Optimistic and freedom-loving Jovial and good-humored Honest and straightforward Intellectual and philosophical</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Blindly optimistic and careless Irresponsible and superficial Tactless and restless</p>	<p>Capricorn: (December 22 - January 20) <i>Good side:</i> Practical and prudent Ambitious and disciplined Patient and careful Humorous and reserved</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Pessimistic and fatalistic Miserly and grudging</p> <p>Aquarius: (January 21 - February 19) <i>Good side:</i> Friendly and humanitarian Honest and loyal Original and inventive Independent and intellectual</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Intractable and contrary Perverse and unpredictable Unemotional and detached</p> <p>Pisces: (February 20- March 20) <i>Good side:</i> Imaginative and sensitive Compassionate and kind Selfless and unworldly Intuitive and sympathetic</p> <p><i>Dark side:</i> Escapist and idealistic Secretive and vague Weak-willed and easily led</p>
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SPORT ADDICTS

Taufiq El Ouali

Being an important activity to almost all AUI students, many students choose to adhere to a sport team rather than train individually. To show the importance of sport in the life of AUI community, AUI News interviewed many members of sport teams about the reason of their adherence to such teams and what they gained from this choice.



Intissar Aicha Hemim: A member of the volleyball women team.

I am a sportswoman. I started practicing sport at the age of five. Being a member of the Volleyball team allows me to keep in touch with the spirit of competition. The first time I joined the team, I just wanted to improve my physical condition. But, as I started attending the training sessions, it turned out to be more than a matter of physical condition; it was rather a matter of maintaining equilibrium in my life.



Shannon Klosterman: a member of the volleyball women team

I decided to join the AUI volleyball team so I could meet new people playing the sport I love the most.

It has been one of my best experiences here in Morocco. I enjoy travelling all over the country to play matches at other universities and seeing other people of my age and their cities.

Our coach is the best. He has helped me improve my academic game. I can't wait to show all my friends back home! Thank you for allowing me to play here at AUI.



Hicham Alaoui Hachimi: member of the Ping Pong Team

Being part of an athletic family, I learned the importance of sport since my childhood.

Sport stands for discipline, fun, and keeping my good shape. In addition, sport allows people to interact with each other and build good relationships throughout the country and even abroad. These are the reasons that pushed me to choose the Ping Pong as my favourite sport and the one I have been practicing for 10 years.

My love for Ping Pong was the first reason that enticed me to join the AUI team. It was for me a way to keep in touch with this sport while studying. I also wanted to share my experience with the other members of the team. In fact, I learned a lot from being part of AUI Ping Pong Team. In addition to making strong ties with students of other universities, I was able to regain my level in this sport, the thing I lost because of the lack of time during the last few years thanks to the serious and hard training sessions that we have within our lovely university. I want to mention here the effort of our sport advisor Mr. Adel Kamane (alias SBAA), Khalifa who does big efforts to allow our training sessions go smoothly and without any kind of disturbance.



Fouad Oppab: member of the AUI Tennis Team

The importance of sport here in Ifrane lies in the fact that it helps AUI students adapt to the conditions of the region and maintain a good shape, knowing that athletes of high level prepare their sport season here in Ifrane. Sport allows students to face their academic studies with good spirit. In addition, AUI adopts the American system

of education, and sport in this kind of universities is very important.

I choose to join AUI tennis team, first, to stay in touch with my favourite sport along with studying. The second reason behind my adherence to a sport team was to make new friends among other member of the teams. And as a fact, I did gain a solid friendship that makes me glad and proud at the same time.

Getting in touch with other people allowed me to better appreciate sports. To conclude, let me tell you that sport can only reinforce your friendship ties and maintain your life standing.



Aguejdad Mehdi: member of the Basketball Team

I have never played with any sport team in my life. This is why I wanted to be in the AUI Basketball team. The thing is that the team was very good when I was in High school and I always heard about its victories. I was very impressed.

What have I gained? Well, I don't know: Maybe some techniques from the coach, as a rebound. I also learned that having outstanding individual techniques is not enough. Collective play is the key to victory, that's why we always lose.



Adil Zghaoui: member of the Soccer Team

I chose to join The AUI Soccer team for many reasons. First, soccer is a tool of

social development and a mean that allowed me to build a strong personality. Second, since my childhood, I always played soccer as a member of a club or just with friends; therefore, when I joined AUI, it was obvious for me to join the soccer team and continue practicing my sport. Finally, the fact that AUI Soccer Team participates in different sport events and championships was a plus to join the team, if not for any other reason it should be for the pleasure of playing in a high competition level.

Being a member of AUI Lions allowed me to make friends, either at AUI or outside; the thing I could not achieve if I did not join the team. All the credit goes to our coach, Mr. Adil Kamane, who helped me acquire many qualities - combativeness, sacrifice, commitment, devotion ...etc; qualities that are, of course, essential for success in both personal and professional lives.



Hind Kassite: member of the Basketball Team

Sport is very important in human life. As far as I am concerned, sport helps people develop their physical and psychological condition. It allows the reduction of stress in our daily life, especially for us the students, and the problems we face during exam periods. In fact, when I started practicing sport, I gained many positive qualities such as self confidence, reliability, in other words "I feel good". Furthermore, even if we are still young, we have to care about health and should pay special attention

to our physical fitness. For these reasons and in order to stay in touch with my favourite sport, I joined the basketball team since my first semester at AUI. Personally, I cannot live without practicing sport; it is necessary for a good physical and mental condition.

This choice to join an AUI sport team helped me to well organise my life and my studies. I think that studying at this university without doing any kind of sport would be very difficult. And we know what Ifrane means to all students.

Practicing sport remains a very precious matter and a real concern to me and to any sport lover. We must be glad that at AUI we have excellent sport equipments and facilities in our country, starting from the soccer field, and ending with the swimming pool. So, I would like to advise all AUI students to take advantage from sports at AUI.



Siham Malki: member of the Basketball Team

Sport is important because it is considered to be an integrated part of our life. One of its main and well-known roles is to enhance the physical and mental health. Basically, sport does more than that. Besides being a source of well being, it helps discover your true potential and develop both self-discipline and self-control.

I didn't choose any AUI sport team; but I chose to join, especially, the Basketball team for the simple reason that I like basketball and it has always been my favorite sport that I've practiced since I was very young.

First of all, basketball trainings help me to improve my physical fitness. It also helps me to work on my weaknesses and build on my strengths.

In addition, basketball as the other team sports, allows us to build our character, develop positive attitude, communicate well, and last but not least act with respect in and out the playing field.

Soufiane Taha: member



of the Soccer Team

I believe that no one, being young or old, can deny the necessity to practice sport in one's life. Sport has important benefits over our students' lives. It is the best activity that combines both physical capacity improvement and mental well-being, the things students in need. Personally, soccer team was the first thing I asked about when I came to AUI. And I would say that my life could not be meaningful without the pleasure of playing soccer. During these last three

semesters, I was simply very happy to be a member of the Soccer Team that I joined during my first week in AUI. And because I didn't know anyone at that time, I had to get involved in the team and assert myself. My involvement process did not take long, and my teammates started already to call me "Figo". Consequently, I gained their friendship and respect.

Frankly, I was very surprised by the high level and quality of my teammates; the thing which helped me a lot in giving my best for the team. My job is a difficult one: score goals. But my friends made it a lot easier. Concentration on my studies and the good experience of Dubai Tournament are other major benefits I got from joining the Soccer Team. Finally, I want to advise all AUI community to practice sport and join a team to keep fit and to study well.

FREE ZONE

Today has been the fifth day that Brahim "Le Magnifique" from AUI Publications asked me to jot down a few lines in the Free Zone section. I have to admit that not only was I busy with all the different club activities that are taking place here at AUI these days, but I also felt lost as to the choice of a topic. Moreover, I felt even more embarrassed in front of this energetic, self-motivated computer whiz having to put off my promise to him every time he asks me. Then I thought that what I probably should talk about is exactly that. In other words, talk about the constant frenzy and the daily hectic rhythm by which these organizations go, and more importantly what the students benefit from these events and experiences.

So let me first start by sharing with you what crazy events are ahead of us these two coming weeks (by the time you will read this article they will probably be over, so please bear with me). Our energetic PSDS members are kicking off this frenzy with their National Public

Speaking Tournament, their second event of the semester. Our Japanese disciples will follow with their Japanese days replete with events ranging from exhibitions, to music, films, martial arts, food and the rest. The Women Empowerment Center is hosting a theater play that is likely to spill a lot of ink. Our promising newborn club "Women and Development Association" is inviting about ten women parliament representatives and representatives of Associations from the region to talk about the problems of women in the Atlas region. Our new dynamic HR club is converting its initially small event into a real conference on Human Resources Development, an organization worthy of the biggest communication agencies of the country. Hand in Hand Association are getting ready for yet another big edition of their FUR RUN event which is sure to be just another success. Finally, the smiling faces of the German Club are planning to mark the semester with a new edition of their German

Day, featuring, among other things, the symphonic orchestra of the Royal Gendarmerie. Seven events in eleven days... simply insane.

This is just a representative portion though of everything that takes place within student organizations, student publications and teams. It does by no means reduce what the other active clubs and organizations are doing, nor is it meant to overshadow what happens at the level of schools and the different departments. You can only wonder how some people can still say that there is nothing going on here...

Most of the credit for the organization of these events, however, goes to the students themselves, while some of it goes to their faculty and staff advisors and the people who assist them. So I hereby want to make a tribute to those students. The ones that make a difference and who "get things done", an expression that is dear to me. Some of our students have truly reached professional levels in event organization, interpersonal communica-

tion, human resources management, in diplomacy, the sense of situations, the management of sensitivities and so many other areas. Unfortunately, not all our students manage to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them outside of their courses. Actually, many among them are not even aware of the added value that these activities can bring them, and that those kinds of experiences are what ultimately make the difference in their active life.

This aspect in AUI student education is now becoming familiar to people even outside the university. In fact, more and more recruiters are systematically calling our office to validate the information given to them by our graduating students concerning their involvement with teams and organizations. This can only mean one thing. That the AUI alumni with extra-curricular experience are making the difference and proving their singularity and that recruiters are looking for more students with similar profiles. So keep up this spirit.

EL MAGNIFICO: A TRIBUTE TO AUI STUDENT LEADERS

PICTURES SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS; SOMETIMES



1- Bba Jaddoub was magnificent. 2- No truth exceeds that of kids. 3- Mr Grasset "if only days would go backwards, I would have chosen AUI." 4- A minute of silence, is it enough? 5- SGA...Thumbs Up ! 6- Music+charm of words... what more? 7- Welldone Mr Peyron "aykmmel rabbi slkhir". 8- Giving blood, do not worry it is going to become an AUI tradition.

