

Get out of MY university!!

Zakaria EL RHEZAQUI
Considered as the best university or at least the best campus in Morocco, Al Akhawayn has always fascinated different categories of people by

its charming services and facilities. People from different ages and social classes wish to visit this "five stars university" and discover a place and a community that have

always been regarded as an exception of the common life in a third world country such as Morocco where poverty and social gaps are really huge. (see page 10)



Counter Strikers installing the game on "their" Lab 7 computers

AUI in the dark

Fatima Zohra MAKHTOUM
So it was midterm period at AUI; students were going mad trying to learn 10 hours of work in just 2 or 3; the library was seeing some of its visitors for the first time this semester, and excess demand developed on the photocopying machine and on those rare classmate's notes that hold the key to success ... But what was

unexpected, and what nobody could have ever imagined, (well not EVER, it's AUI after all!), was to sit an actual midterm in the DARK!!... I wish I was joking but I go to this university...

So it was Monday night; the auditorium in building 4 was packed with more than 60 students quietly writing their midterm exam in Legal Environment,

or they thought they were. Everybody was trying their best to succeed; the situation seemed normal, or was it a little too normal? At approximately 22.07 hours, the power got cut in the MIDDLE of the exam, and students, frustrated, were obliged to write the rest of their exam in the dark.

(see page 09)

EUROPE in MOROCCO September 16-19, 2005

At the throw of a stone

Citizenship at The Al Akhawayn Alumni yearly "F'tour Débat"

A snapshot of AUI

To Be or not to Be?

Hail the Peace Tree



Body Image in GDA

Sarah **HARTMAN**

On Thursday 6 October, the Gender and Development Association hosted a Body Image Workshop in the Game Room featuring guest speaker Dr. Cherie Mobasher. The purpose of the Body Image Workshop was to provide a forum for AUI students to explore



Photo by: Ghizlane Fouad

the issues of body image and self-esteem and to see how they can be influenced by images in today's media. Approximately thirty students and one professor were in attendance. (see page 2)

Ramadan Soccer Tournament



Photo by: Intissar H. Alcha

An event that all AUI football fans, boys as well as girls, students and staff, wait for impatiently. It is one of the advantages that students benefit from during the holy month of Ramadan at AUI. What is special about this event is the fact that it is an indoor tournament that is exceptionally held on the pitch of the gymnasium. (see page 14)

Body Image in GDA



Photo by: Ghizlane Fouad

Dr. Mobasher began the discussion by defining "body image" and illustrating how it is constructed at a young age. She defined "body image" as "how we perceive what we look like." Dr. Mobasher then used the examples of a Barbie doll, a toy mirror and a pair of young girls' dress-up shoes as examples of objects that young girls are exposed to and that are influential in the early formation of ideas of beauty.

Dr. Mobasher continued the discussion by offering some statistics about women and body image. The mood of the students at the workshop was a mix of humor and shock when they learned that if a Barbie doll became a real woman she would have to crawl due to her body proportions and that fashion models are, on average, about 20%-25% smaller than the average woman. At this point in the discussion, many students began to talk about their own experiences with eating disorders and about coming to terms with their

own appearances. One student who had overcome an eating disorder advised distinguishing between body shape and weight, as weight alone can be a deceptive indicator of health or attractiveness. She said that when she accepted her appearance she began to like the way she looked and worried less about the numbers on the scale.

For the next activity in the workshop, Dr. Mobasher distributed some magazines that are available at newsstands in Morocco. The students were instructed to study the images of men and women in the advertisements to see how attractiveness is portrayed in print-media. Some aspects of the advertisements that students noted were: thinness and height, ethnicity or race, sexual images and poses, the use of isolated body parts, and the use of air-brushing and other editing techniques to make the models appear flawless. Dr. Mobasher noted the irony of one magazine containing an article about cooking delicious desserts

next to a page about dieting techniques! Studying these advertisements was an effective way of discovering how the idea of beauty is constructed in media and how the expectations for each gender are often contradictory and impossible to fulfill. These social expectations then become the root of individuals' problems with body image and self-esteem.

Dr. Mobasher closed the workshop by conducting a survey of the students regarding different aspects of body image and self-esteem. Her final advice was that, instead of competing with each other and putting each other down, students should help each other overcome the obstacles of body image and self-esteem. The students who attended the workshop seemed very interested in the topic of body image; thus, the workshop seemed to be successful in generating an on-going discussion on this topic within the student body at AUI.

Editorial

My fellow AUIers, it is with a great pleasure that we FINALLY presents to you the new edition of AUI News.

After a very busy semester, a lot of postponed meetings, a lot of missed meetings, and a lot of repeated dragging of members to the office (because of the failure of ALL other means), we finally managed to put together a reasonably acceptable newspaper, that we hope will be up to your standards.

Thanks to everybody's contribution and support, and through team spirit, this issue deeply exposes the heart and soul of journalism by giving it personality and style.

So, stay tuned for a peak at the highlights of what has been going on, sit back and let the events roll. We also have in store for you some controversy, some hard truth, and some inspirational pieces. Also included in this issue, are some sports for those football fanatics and finally, an international section that should take you right across the globe.

I have said too much already! I'll let you find out for yourselves. Enjoy!

FATIMA-ZOHRA MAKHTOUM
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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Chaabana: girls' exclusive!

Karima SAADAoui

This is the first time in my life that I attended an event as special as Chaabana. I was very surprised when I read on flyers that it was only open to girls and I started asking my friends what it was about. My question was answered on Thursday September 22, 2005 at 9 pm in the game room. I entered the room and it was full of girls. It was dispatched into three areas: an area where Moroccan cookies and tea were served, an area for the AUI radio group, and finally an area where a queue was standing, one just like those in our AUI restaurant, and where girls were impatiently waiting their turn to have some Hanaa. A lot of girls enjoyed their time at the party, and most of them loved garnishing their hands with beautiful Hanaa tattoos. We danced on Chaabi music, Oriental music and we

even had the chance of assisting to an Arabesque show (guys you missed it!). They served us dates with milk, and then tea with Moroccan cookies. Most of the hall directors were there with us and we spent nice moments with them. I would actually like to thank them for the efforts

that they put in, in order to make this event a successful one. I also appreciated the job that AUI radio performed through offering Moroccan and Oriental music that all the girls loved (even though they had some technical problems and a boy had to come into the room

to fix it). I felt for boys because they couldn't assist with us. At one point, some boys tried to come in which made all the girls scream, because it was a girls' night. Boys felt jealous, and so they decide to take revenge by organizing Chaabana night for boys only!!!



Photo by: Karima Saadaoui

EUROPE in MOROCCO

September 16-19, 2005

Meryam EL MARZOUKI

Within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean relations, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences organized, from the 16th to the 19th of September 2005, at AUI, a Workshop on the Barcelona Process and its implications on Morocco. The School of Humanities organized a visit for some students from the Erfurt University of Germany, its vice president and two of his assistants. The workshop was characterized by the participation of some MAISD students, and was headed by Dr. Sater and Dr. Wien. The objective was to bring Europeans and North Africans together in order to further discuss the issues that interest the two regions and their relations.



Photo by: Meryam Marzouki

Our correspondent with the participants in the workshop visiting Ouajid. The workshop was marked by the presence of both President Benmokhtar and Dr. Dahbi. It included presentations, discussions and lectures. Interesting issues such as the "Migration to Europe" or "Democracy in the

engage in friendly discussions far from "democracy." The most impressive thing of all was the certificates that were given to all those who participated in this event of cooperation between Erfurt University and AUI.

The workshop, in general, was a real success. It would be a good thing however, if the all of the University's schools could organize such seminars every semester. They're a good practice of the theoretical material that we learn in class and they're a good personal experience.

Arab-Muslim World" were put forth by Moroccan students in order to better understand the Europeans' perspectives on such matters. The workshop was also distinguished by a trip to Volubilis and to Meknes which gave the group the opportunity to

At the throw of a stone

Brahim AIT OUZINEB

Those who live in the university and complain about the emptiness of their day may be mistaken. You wake up in the morning; you're a responsible person who has to have a light breakfast. You meet somebody, a friend, and you get soaked in your bowl of cereals. You see new corners with confused eyes and exchange students with their curious and reticent looks.

Then, you walk by building 12 to meet students and some staff getting ready to go somewhere, the name of which you cannot understand: Ait Lahcen primacy school. It is a small school that bears the name of a family which first inhabited the Adghagh small community. Everybody is wearing the new hand in hand sweaters. Mr. Bouya and Mrs. Benmokhtar,

advisor to the Association, are doing their best to make everybody wear them.

Games & satchels are distributed; everybody comes back to the university with the mixed-up faces of those kids at the back of their minds. Those

kids who have nothing to give back but a local song celebrating earth and the lover.

In the evening, Mr. Environment of the house talks about organic farming and its importance. With about 22 guests, in building 7, who

mostly came to know about the reuse of land waste to control land fertility, Mr. Raissouni talked generously as usual. He confirmed that the biodiversity of the region does not allow the use of the chemical products. In fact, getting the international approval of the Certification Trade Association (CCOF) and the North East Organic Farming Association (NOFA) would allow an organic production. It is the best way to offer jobs and cut costs; besides, it is a good income generating activity and assures the preservation of the ecosystem. As the experiment by the AUI CEIRD showed in the green house, no fertilizers and pesticides are needed in order to guarantee consumers' health.



Exploring nature

2005 regional environmental day of the Meknès Tafilalet region and Clean up the world

Maryam CHEIKHI

Last Sunday, I went to Zaouiat Oued Ifrane within an amazing trip organized by the AUI CEIRD, under the topic of "2005 Regional Environment Day & Clean up world Weekend", and I would like to share with you each enjoyable moment that we have experienced. Actually, the clean up world program started two days before, but I couldn't assist only until the last day. This was a good opportunity for me and for the group of participants to discover the beautiful sites around Ifrane. This was a very special trip because it had many goals, some of the most important ones served educational, environmental, and entertainment purposes.

On the last day of the program, we went to a wonderful village called Zaouiat Oued Ifrane. The region was a little bit far from Ifrane (one

hour and a half by AUI vans), but with all the excitement to reach the place and the company of the nice team, it was worth it. Many people from the municipality and five volunteers from the Zaouiat's local community were helping in the cleaning campaign. Thereafter, we met three key persons from the village: Ismail ABIDI, the "Mkedem" of the community; Ali AMRANI, President of a local environmental NGO and Mohamed EL FADILI, forest ranger and Engineer in forestry at Aïn Louh district. They devoted their time and effort in guiding us through our trip by providing explanations about the natural biodiversity of the region and the laws governing the region. The village design was very simple; all you see is houses grouped altogether, but

the surrounding forest makes it very fascinating.

The trip had an important educational purpose; we were provided, by the AUI CEIRD, with handouts about Ifrane and its regions as a whole, and with a lot of information about Zaouiat Oued Ifrane. There were many factors

Dr. RAISSOUNI asked the "Mkedem" and the NGO President to write down all the concrete conclusions that we drew from everybody's suggestions and to work hard, with the support of AUI CIERD, to make things real.

contributing to the destruction of the Zaouiat's forest, such as erosion, overgrazing, overuse of wood and forest log by the local community mainly due to poverty conditions. We noticed that there was no

clear forest management plan. Shepherders were grazing their animals in the forest when no special zone is available for animals. Mr. EL FADILI taught us almost all the scientific names of the tree species and plants. We enjoyed observing their wonderful shapes and feeling their ability to supply fresh air, but we were also upset to see a lot of dying trees because people cut their branches, especially to feed their goats and sheep. Mr. EL FADILI believes that we should sentence those who kill trees to jail, instead of applying very old regulations like Dahir 10.10 of 1917 which originated from the French Protectorate.

And yet, I was astonished to hear that this region is now among the richest communes of Morocco. However, its population is facing many

stumbling blocks, and so it's difficult for them to acquire or to maintain a good standard of living. The population is about 1600 people; children have a primary school but lack both a secondary school and a college. Actually, Mr. AMRANI told us that most of the children are working with entrepreneurs in some Souks selling goods. I think that this is alarming, and if the region was to be developed into an eco-tourist site, children wouldn't be compelled to work.

The ambience of the group was very entertaining. We had good times talking and laughing with each other. We also made new friends in the region, and because the weather was great at that time, we really enjoyed looking at nature's beauty. I was personally

Photo Dr. Maryam Chelbi



very attracted by the waterfall and, as Ms. C. RAISSOUNI mentioned, we can see drops of wavelets like we are seeing small clouds slowly evaporating down to the earth. The hiking was very exciting although we

had to walk for about 4 hours which was a little tiring for some people. Still, there was nothing better, on that Sunday morning, than drinking fresh, pure and safe water from the source. I discovered many kinds of plants and I was told that a certain plant is used by the people, with bread in the baking process in order to give it a

flavour. When we arrived to the village, we were invited into a beautiful house and were served very delicious Moroccan and traditional food. We thought we were going to take a little nap; well, Dr. RAISSOUNI preferred

to have an environmental discussion followed by a quiz.

The aim of the discussion was to emphasize the importance of environmental awareness and to contribute to the betterment of the local environment. Most importantly, we were asked to talk about what we noticed in the region, both advantages and disadvantages. Each one of us

gave his or her own opinion of what should be done in order to ensure sustainable development of the region. Dr. RAISSOUNI asked the "Mqedem" and the NGO President to write down all the concrete conclusions

that we drew from everybody's suggestions and to work hard, with the support of AUI CIERD, to make things real. I believe that Zaouait Oued Ifrane has an exceptional natural potential (forest, plant and animal biodiversity, and fresh water sources), which should be better valorised and conserved. The know how and support of AUI CEIRD in contributing to the development of the village has been expressed and praised by many local community representatives and authorities. This proves that our university can, in fact, be a vector in regional development, and that this current action, the cleaning up campaign followed by an exchange of ideas on sustainable development, has motivated the local community to act through the cleaning the water ways and forestry surroundings.

Let us all contribute to the sustainable development of the Middle Atlas to secure a better future for us and for the next generation.

Madih night: celebrating our culture

Karima **SAADAoui**

Within the frame of promoting the art of "Madih", which is an important pillar of the Moroccan mystic tradition, the British club organized a spiritual music night of English and Arabic supplications that were performed by a group of men coming from the city of Mèknes and specialized in Ibtihalaat and Amdaah.

The event was prepared just a day before and the members were very enthusiastic. We advertised the event the same day; we sent invitations to faculty, staff and outside authorities, and we sent emails to students. We did our best to let people

know about the event because it was the 15th night of Ramadan, even if it was last minute advertisement. However, only few people showed up that night.

Still, we were very happy by the presence of our president and his wife who we would like to thank. We delayed the start of the ceremony for one hour so as to allow more people to show up, but not even half of the auditorium filled up. I understand that it is due to many reasons, such as midterms, not being informed because of the short notice, or maybe just because of a lack of interest for some people. But still, you missed a great moment full of emotions. I would



like to take this opportunity to thank the performers who were very admirable. During two enjoyable hours, they opened us to another world full of emotions

and serenity through the reading of the Koran followed by the Ibtihalaat and Amdaah, including the very popular "Tala3a Al Badr".

Citizenship at The Al Akhawayn Alumni yearly "F'tour Débat"

Wadia **AIT HAMZA**

Al Akhawayn Alumni Association organized on Thursday, 20th October, in Casablanca, the second edition of the "F'tour Débat". The discussion was moderated by M. Abderrahmane SAIDI, former Minister of Privatization, around the theme "Which approach for Morocco's citizen". Many distinguished guests took part in the debate making it very interesting and exciting for a generation of young leaders, thirsty for a real sense of citizenship. Salim Zekri, the President of Al Akhawayn Alumni mentioned the important role that the university plays at the regional and national level in promoting civism and in producing students who are well educated as well as respectful to the law of citizenship. Salim also gave a clear and smart definition of the citizen, which importance was stressed about by all the guests present. Among them M. Nouredine AYOUCHE, President of "Fondation ZAKORA"; M. Rachid BENMOKHTAR, President of Al Akhawayn University; M. Driss BENHIMA, General Director of "ANDRN";

M. Mohamed LASRY, General Director of "ST Microelectronics"; M. Ahmed Reda BENCHEMSI, Editor in chief of "TelQuel"; M. Mohamed TOZI, Professor, and finally Mrs. Naima BENOAKRIM, a Human Rights militant.

The guests were asked about their definition and experience of the good citizen, which they illustrated by mentioning their past actions. President Benmokhtar talked about his experience and about how good citizenship comes from the avoidance of simple law breaking that everyone engages in everyday. He mentioned that these small rules that are violated everyday can make a big difference in our life. Mr. Benhima referred to the well known father of the Moroccan Sociology Professor Paul Pascon, and to his definition of a good citizen, which is simply to respect 'la déontologie au quotidien'. Mr.

Reda Benchemsi talked about his experience with Telquel and about how this magazine tries hard to educate people about their rights, through publishing articles and booklets. He said that his role as a citizen and journalist is to talk to people, to make them aware of their rights and of the state's rights towards them. Mr. Ayouch talked about

the important role of civil society, an important role however not as important as the political one. He encouraged the Al Akhawayn Alumni to get involved in the political sphere by joining political parties, because they constitute an influential pool. Women of the guests stressed that the Al Akhawayn Alumni are very active and that they make up some of the best young citizens. Their actions are a proof of their goodwill as citizens. Their organization of the F'tour debate and the quality of the discussion was quite impressive. Debating on such a theme was quite innovative, mentioned one of the guests.

We should give a round of applause for this effort, which was an a good opportunity to meet our fellow Alumni and to have a nice discussion while digesting the so good Moroccan Harira.

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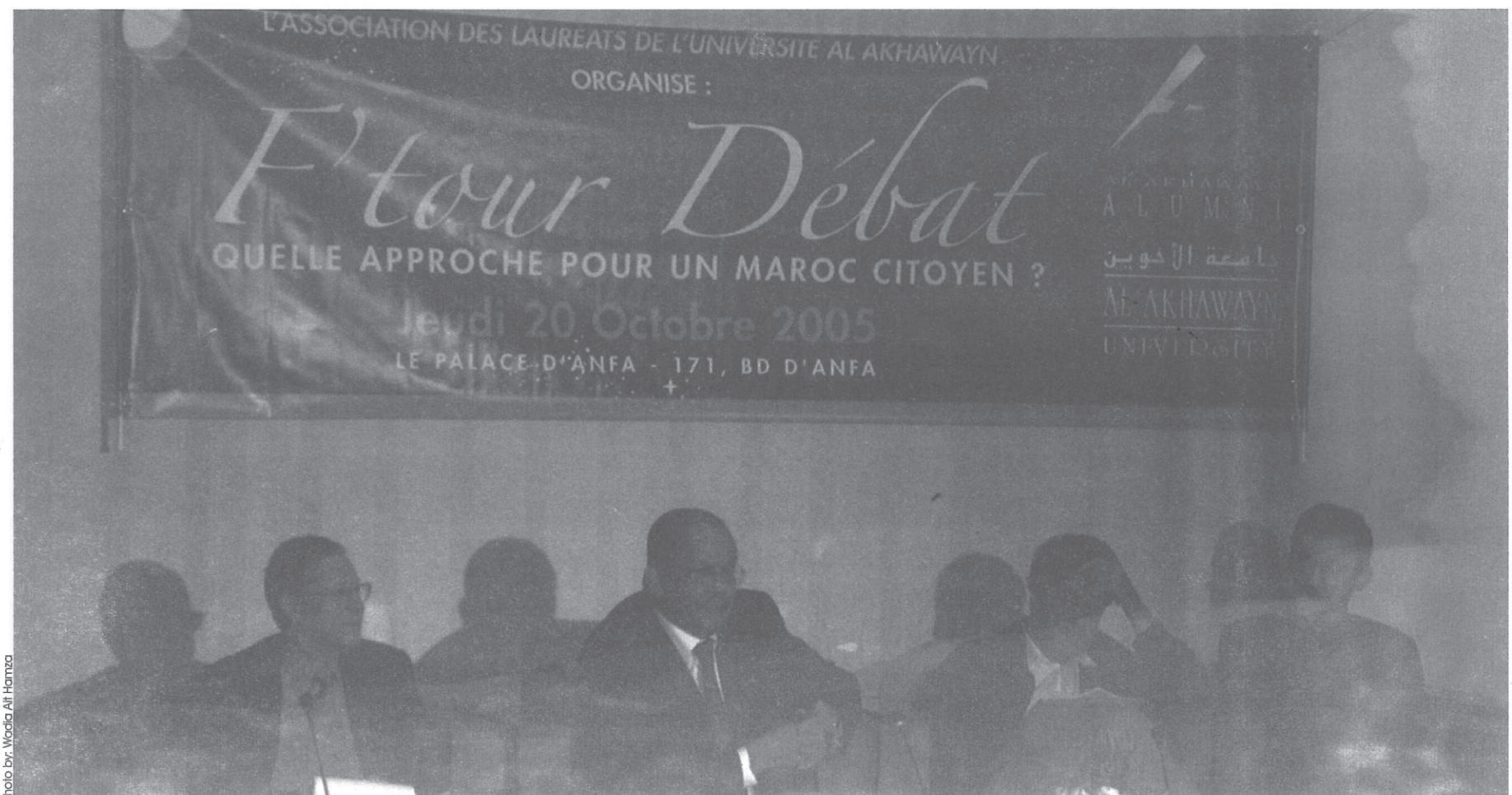
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What is up with AUI?

Laura Karima **AMAROUI**

Good morning, afternoon, evening my fellow AUI peers and thanks for choosing AUI News as your news reporting medium. Fall 2005 marks the beginning of an academic career for many students or a continuation for others. However, this semester has struck me as one that is rather unusual and empty. Many of my former peers and classmates are no longer with us because they have either chosen to transfer to another institution or have simply given up on obtaining an education altogether. One cannot help but to ask why students are feeling more and more compelled to make such decisions. Is it AUI? Is it the professors? Or, are there problems with the students themselves? These are all interesting questions that I have tried to address personally in order to share with you all.

Many students who are attending AUI or at least plan to do so in the near future, are not coming from an American curriculum-based institution and therefore are not familiar with the way this system works. No clear and direct description is given to new coming students about what a credit system is and the meaning of freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior standings are. A student in turn can feel lost and out of place because they are attending an institution that they know virtually nothing about. This may be one reason that no real attachment by the students who attend AUI is established; hence giving them one more reason they should seek better opportunities elsewhere.

Another issue is that

there are some students who are having an extreme difficulty understanding the significance of CAD and the reason for which they are "forced" to take the SSK cycles. Little do they know that these courses will in fact prove useful, maybe not explicitly, later along in their studies and even in their professional career. However, my point here is not to praise CAD, it is to address the fact that more and more students are feeling annoyed more than anything else that they must spend 2 or more semesters taking the CAD cycle, which to them may seem as a waste of time, effort, money, and energy. Some students agree that CAD is useful, however one source stated that,

There were some courses that were cancelled because professors left AUI and replacements could not be found to fill the positions. Many students were left advisor-less during the period of add and drop

come to the attention of many, including myself, is that there is an enormous problem with the professor/student relationship here at AUI. Whether it has been drawn to the attention of the AUI administration or not, I honestly could not tell you, however there are two extremes in regards to this subject. One is that many students feel that they are treated unfairly by certain professors for many reasons and these may be that the teacher is of a different nationality and language is in turn a barrier that may prevent the students and the teacher from being about to communicate or understand one another.

Furthermore, many student from all classes, whether they be newcomers or old, that the amount of teachers that are leaving AUI on a yearly basis is disturbing, both the operation of AUI as an educational insti-

tution and for them. When students pre-register for a course, they expect to be able to first, take that course, and second to have the course with the professor that they signed up for. The beginning of this semester was havoc, especially for the students and faculty from the School of Business Administration and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. There were some courses that were cancelled because professors left AUI and replacements could not be found to fill the positions. Many students were left advisor-less during the period of add and drop because their advisors happened to be one of the professors that left AUI. This is definitely not the image that student would have as the start of their semester.

The latter points were just a few of the many issues that AUI students are experiencing and that should, if not must, be dealt with by the AUI administration. Perhaps the AUI administration is dealing with these issues as we speak, and the students are not aware of this. Or, maybe these are things that the AUI students are expected to deal with as mature and educated adults. However, many of the students who come to here to AUI on exchange find such topics worthless of discussion because they have never had to deal with such problems at their home university. This raises the question of why us? Why is it that other institutions do not have to take such issues into consideration while one of the most infamous institutions in morocco has to?

If there is something that students feel is not in coherence with what AUI presents itself as being, excellence and identity, then you should make your voice heard. AUI is a "democracy" which politically means, 'power to the people'. Exercise your voices and rights as paying students and make AUI a better place to live, get an education, and be affiliated with. PEACE.



"Though CAD is important, it seems that there are some courses that are being given in a redundant manner. SSK 1201 and 1202 are almost identical and SSK 1204 is relatively the same as English Comp. II.

Another factor that has

Another factor that has

In that case, we're all depressed . . .

Sarah **CHERRABI EL ALAOU**

Wow, finally in college, finally by myself, finally far from home, Freedom! That is what you might say once you get here. A very nice place to study, many many friends, exciting courses, interesting subjects, it's just great. This is the wonderful side of college: being far from home could be, at the beginning, relaxing for some of you, being independent, taking decisions, going out for dinner whenever you feel like it, participating in many clubs, in theater, dancing, or writing. All these things are just terrific. You think it's great and perfect and you wish you could just continue like this. But then, stress shows its face; you spend the night chatting with you friends and you're telling yourself that you are studying. Or maybe, you are studying, and you want to be the smartest student of your class, and you spend all your time at the library, working for hours, even if it's only language center classes. Making decisions becomes hard, too many choices; how to deal with this? Many clubs to go too; which one tonight? Look at your organizer; you can't find it; it is somewhere in your messy room; you didn't have time to clean it. Your family misses you a lot; you are not used to living alone or with a "stranger"; you want to go home. You need to see your friend X, and also your friend Y, but they do not like each other, so you have to deal with it because they are both your friends; you are confused. You discover that you really don't have any friend here; you think you are alone. You have a quiz tomorrow; you have too quizzes tomorrow; you didn't revise anything because you were busy working on a presentation; it's midnight, you need to sleep so you can go to class tomorrow. You decide to work first because you don't want to fail; you

spend the night working and in the morning you can't wake up; you are stressed; finally, you are lost and you don't know what to do. This is what we call depression; don't think it won't happen to you because it can happen to any of us, even to the most relaxed students.

University is a new place for all of us; it is different from high school. You set up you own schedule; you become more responsible; most of the tasks are done by you, and you can not count on anyone, no daddy or mummy here to help, so you end up losing control and get depressed. Being depressed can lead to sadness, insomnia, and eating disorders; either you start eating a lot or you do not eat at all; you become too tired, too tired to do anything even going to the bathroom; you lose your memory; you don't remember what was said in that course; you even start thinking about suicide. Finally, you give up; you can't struggle anymore; you become hopeless. So you think the solution is to focus more on your studies and to forget all other activity. You think you'll be fine when you won't have as many things to do, so you spend your free time in your room, doing nothing, maybe reading, but you don't feel like it anymore. You are now in the stage of monotony; you are doing the same thing over everyday; you are not making any changes in your life; you are at a standstill; you get bored, and here, you get depressed again. Being alone is not the solution; being everywhere with everyone is not the solution either. So maybe you will try the other extremity, the one on the opposite side; a friend invites you to see what the "Tilleuls" looks like; you hesitate, and finally you say, "Maybe I'll feel better"; you go there; once; twice; you get used to it. Then, maybe, you'll get

attracted to all the things that go on in the "Tilleuls"; alcohol, drugs... This is not a solution.

Depression is both a physical and a psychological disorder. When depressed, there are many changes that occur in your brain. According to the website depression run by GlaxoSmithKline, the feeling of depression is caused by a chemical change that affects the brain functions. Here is what was said about the causes of depression causes: "A normally functioning brain is a giant messaging system that controls everything from your heartbeat, to walking, to your emotions. The brain is made up of billions of nerve cells called neurons. These neurons send and receive messages from the rest of your body, using brain chemicals called neurotransmitters". Depression occurs when these chemical messages are not properly distributed between brain cells, so the communication is interrupted. (To see a video of how depression affects the brain, go to the link <http://www.depression.com/understanding_depression.html> and click on "Watch what happens")

What to do? Anybody in the world can have depression; any person can feel perfectly happy

and then become depressed. Don't panic; there is a solution, and the solutions are very simple and easy to follow. Keep going to class; keep in contact with your family; talk to them on the phone; go see them during weekends if you can; check your list of friends; keep the ones you truly believe they're your friends; forget about the others; keep your room clean and organized because this affects your wellbeing also; don't dive blindly into alcohol or drugs; it's just a waste of time and money and it's not the solution. Keep going to the clubs that interest you but no more than two, as it was decided by the students' activities office. If you are having trouble in you courses, talk to your professors; explain to them how you feel. But if you think that it goes further than that, and that it's more complicated or, you think that it's related to problems you had before, then, go see our university counselor. Go see Dr. Mobasheri; she will listen to you and help you; go to the Health Center; there is assistance there too. Don't be shy; these people are here for you and it is something that will keep coming back to you if you don't deal with it now. Good luck!



A snapshot of AUI

Fatima Zohra **MAKHTOUM**

So I was asked to write an article for AUI news... And this is the outcome... Hate it or love it...

So I am sitting down at the lab on Sunday night thinking about an interesting subject, or really just ANY subject... After a couple of hours of chatting, I look up my shoulder and realize that I am surrounded by three rows of counter strike players. If you are not familiar with the term (although I doubt it), these are people who have a supernatural inner strength that allows them to sit in front of a PC for up to 24 hours in struggle for their life (or lives, is it?), and this is achieved through the use of their deadliest weapons: big earphones and regular swearing.

So I am sitting down thinking about what goes on in AUI these days: over 260 newcomers, meaning even longer restaurant queues and the unexplained disappearance of spoons, making yogurt consumption a real challenge, and resulting in very sticky fingers and eventual clothes dropping. I also hear we have 12 sections of 1203! Then we have the same stressful and customary add and drop period (still wait-

ing for the inauguration of the online system, any day now), and finally, the new professors and the start of studies, which coincides with the beginning of another popular ritual: the Tilleuls (the email about Ramadan could not be delivered to all recipients because of failure of the server, what a shock).

So here is an interesting topic: how is it that the "best" university of Morocco hires the weirdest phenomenons to teach the future ambassadors of Morocco? I am not going to name names because we would be here all day, but most people may guess who I am talking about. There are at least three kinds of professors at AUI and I am still discovering. The first kind includes those who simply read the material to you, sometimes copying the exact wording on the board, to help us with our deep literacy issues, you know. Then, there are those who simply invent the most senseless things I have ever heard, and try to look serious while saying it, (I remind everybody that this is a university, house of knowledge). These professors have serious self esteem problems generated during early adolescence (getting dropped on their heads for instance). The last category involves a combination of both

group 1 and group 2, in addition to benefiting from a complete lack of teaching skills (or any other skills for that matter). I have no logical explanation for these, still waiting on the source, or a miracle... And just when I thought that it couldn't get worse, somebody informs me that a professor who taught here in 1996 was slapping his students. I repeat, this man voluntarily and repeatedly swung his hands towards students' faces and HIT them! Maybe I am overreacting... By the way, the man was dismissed only when students went after him outside the University for a "private" talk... The poor man couldn't ever set foot back at AUI, you understand...And if you don't, use your imagination.

Of course, we shall not forget the most important professors, and they deserve our highest respects and gratitude, those who are competent and professional, and who may not be treated with the respect and appreciation that they deserve. They constantly go out of their way to provide us with the best services available to them and we shall never forget their goodwill. We need more of these people here but the sad thing is that, since I got into AUI, I see them becoming fewer and

fewer. It hurts me to say that with so many disappointing experiences, most of us tend to give up and take our education for granted. Things are so bad that we feel like the situation will never change. But it is us, the students, who make this university. It is too easy to put the blame on the administration (although there is no doubt that they share the responsibility), but we are the ones who are shutting up about our rights. Some of the people in charge are fools for ignoring their priorities, and we are even bigger fools for letting them get away with it! I am talking of those who work for their own benefits when they are supposed to offer a service (that I think we paid for... I think). How can such people look us in the eyes, and look our parents in the eyes and lie about what is going on? It is called "Excellence & Identity". Well, they are definitely excellent at keeping their own identity... The only way that we will see progress is if we, the students, make it happen. We need to show them that we are unhappy with the current situation, that we want change, and that we are not shutting up until we see it! AUI has so many good things to offer, let's not let it go to waste.

Continued from p.1

Students sitting close to the doors of the auditorium were the least affected by the tragedy thanks to the emergency exit lights situated on top of each door. Others were not so lucky and received permanent eye damage. Fortunately and thanks to the big technological advancements of our age, mobile phones were found to be very effective substitutes for public lighting. People didn't hesitate one second to reach for their phones, lighters, candles, fluorescent shoes, or any other source of lighting.

The professor saw this as an acceptable move in such a chaotic situation. To lessen their frustration and horror, students sought emotional help from each other. People broke down and had no choice but to share their answers to the crisis, and eventually to the exam. At first, students were confused and scared; they were whispering to those closest to them. But after a while, the situation became too unbearable: people started opening their books, looking at their notes, papers started flying... anything to get to safety. A black market developed instantly for questions 14 and

17, and new entrepreneurs arose. Business was peaking... This helped some people calm down, and saved many lives.

To reduce casualties, the professor tried to keep everybody calm but he was overpowered by the wild crowd. Some of his remains can still be found at the place of the crime, god bless him. Students who survived the tragedy have been emotionally disturbed since, and they are petrified of

the dark. They cannot stay in a room with little lighting for more than 30 seconds and have to sleep with the lights always on. Of course the government denies any knowledge, and all evidence has been destroyed. Students willing to testify quickly changed their minds after a mysterious threatening note showed up. Therefore, no interviews could be obtained. Actually, it is preferable that this tragedy is erased from our minds forever and that it is never brought up again. Thank you for your understanding.



Get out of MY university!!

Continued from p.1

Zakaria **EL RHEZAOUI**

As a result of this decorated delightful picture of AUI _which is not totally fake, still exaggerated_ a lot of different groups hunt for signing different contracts with the university, some of which are social, educational or even "Business" agreements. However, the problem is that our dear university is exaggerating a bit in such activities, thing that leads to gradual devastation of the privacy and prestige of the university, which, if this flow of outsiders continues to access the university throughout the year, will become like any other public sector such as cinemas or zoos. This phenomenon or I call it dilemma worsen in the summer session, where the number of AUI "invaders" even exceeds the number of students.

We really feel as if we are in a strange place not in our private campus. Foreign outsiders from different ages, different categories, and for different reasons are present on campus, day light and by night, whenever and wherever. Here we are in the accounting class and a big wave of children of a school or a camping or I don't know who they are, are passing near the class screaming and looking at us as if we are Martians, even the professor can not concentrate to continue the lesson, so we are obliged to wait for the hundreds of teenagers to finish their "AUI tour" to continue our course. In the labs or even the library which is supposed to be our safe place from noise, those invaders don't leave us in peace. Here they are fascinated by your huge library and well equipped labs; again

we are obliged to have a long rest till our "dear" visitors finish discovering each single place.

OK, we are fed up with studies, we want to go and have a rest in the cafeteria or just chill out in our beautiful campus. NO, we students don't have a place; we have visitors who already invaded all the places we used to chill in. A group after a group, from staff of Ministries to directors of companies to English professors to ARANAS students to world historians to camping children and finally a "band" of electronic games players who really made us feel

saw three people swimming in the same pool lane, in addition to the soccer field, that was forbidden for students who tried to manage a small dangerous space at the edge of the soccer field to play their favourite game. The events that took place in the university were really numerous that I really can not remember all of them. On the other hand, people who had good "vacations" at "AUI five stars hotel" were really shocked by the high prices on campus and the weakness in some services, and I don't hide it, I was feeling good whenever I hear a visitor

exclaiming the high prices of everything on campus, in the cafeteria, in the restaurant, in the shop, or sometimes the bad quality of food in the restaurant. So at least they discovered some of our problems on campus. Another observation that I had is the lack of respect of some "visitors" to the "house owners", I mean students and staff who really suffered from some reckless acts from old "mature" people who maybe missed their adolescence and the life at AUI

our university. We really have dangerous people who can change a mature man, who may even be a VIP or a Professor to a very naïve person with no personality, and who forgets about the essential protocols of dealing with students, they even become unable to distinguish between the right and the wrong. I wish those students used such skills in constructive not destructive activities. Anyways, we students are not the only category that suffers from this dilemma of "invaders", but also the different staff working in different departments, especially security guards, the housing department, the servants of the cafeteria and the restaurant, the cleaning agents, gardeners and so forth. All those people suffer from more intensive work frame and they don't even receive a word of thanking or just respect of those people they serve. Hence, you find that not students only, but also these staffs have this anti-feeling toward those outsiders. We all agree on the fact that an international university like Al Akhawayn should be opened on its environment and have different activities, and should have a kind of business investments in order to finance its increasing expenses; however, the university should keep its prestige and privacy, and such activities should not be at the expense of the university reputation and especially not at the expense of students freedom and calm because it is students who should be given more attention, and they are illegible from benefiting from each single space in the university more than anyone else. Thus, the university should think about a solution that takes into consideration the students benefit at the first place and then think about investments and revenues because "invaders annoy us".



the real "invasion", especially while talking about "Counter Strike" with all military terms, so I was really afraid to receive a sniper shot in my head from the "game room" that became a military base. Even in parties, the few parties, organised by student activities we students were seen as minorities and the dance floor was taken by visitors. Even the gymnasium and the swimming pool were full of them, and for the first time we

made them forget that they are in their thirties or even forties of age. However, we should mention that there were good friendships between our students and some of those "young men and women" especially our naughty "students" who made our visitors think that they are still young and full of life, so some of them even decided to spend good nights outside in the restaurants and night clubs with these "dynamic" girls of

To Be or not to Be?

Karim **AOUIFIA**

Culture is the backbone of every society in this world of human beings; it is the fulcrum around which a whole life is built. Men cannot live without a culture, without a sense of belonging. To possess a culture is to feast on the joys of life and to draw mileage from the sense of being different. Culture is to live for something and to strive to uphold it as well as enriching it with positive elements.

Culture is the means which bolsters confidence into any given nation; it injects a certain aspect of "raison d'être" into the spirit of every people. For some, it is the doorway leading to the foundation of an identity, a history that will perpetuate its multi-faceted aspect and safeguard it against the waves of forgetfulness. At this stage, culture becomes a guarantee of a prolonged life, a chance to be different in a world increasingly marked by a tendency towards one's culture. It becomes the repertoire to which people can resort when needed. What kind of need might propel these

people to take refuge into their culture? And, is their culture a perennial one, a culture which can stand the test of time? Is it capable of exuding a sense of defiance against any threat of extinction? In these questions lies the onus of the whole issue.

It is an act of recklessness to assume that cultures never die; that they are rooted in history. Many cultures of the ancient world are now blown in the wind; they are taught to lazy students in dilapidated schools. Despite the fact that some facets of these evanescent cultures are still witnessed in their places of birth, they have lost every meaning. They have become debris visited and photographed by idle tourists.

However, culture might be an antidote or rather a panacea for some people whose existence is put in jeopardy. It is the appeaser of the sense of bitterness buffeting nations in time of crisis. In a time stamped by a fierce struggle to prove oneself as the only one capable of

carrying Many cultures of the ancient world are the torch of now blown in the wind; they are taught humanity, to lazy students in dilapidated schools survival is for the fittest. The not-knowing-what-to-do, the not-knowing-where-to go and the have-nots have no chance to survive.

However, how can culture be cumbersome; how can it be a stumbling block in the way of prosperity?

Culture should be submitted to a litmus test to check if it can win the bet of progress and technology.

Certain ways of thinking and standards of life unravel the seed of backwardness sown in culture. These ways and standards cannot be tailored to meet the upcoming deadlines and challenges of modern time. They are entrenched in the sense that they cannot be rooted out and substituted by other ones capable of being geared to abrupt changes.

Objective and scientific studies should not fall prey to overgeneralizations which belly any legitimacy of whatsoever



kind of work. In each culture, there are elements that keep pace with the brightest aspect of modern time. How can these positive aspects be spotted so that they can contribute to the move toward goodness? This is the task of intellectuals who are deemed to use their reasoning to help their nations and cultures forward, but what kind of intellectuals can shoulder this heavy responsibility? Are they the organic ones in Gramscian term or the ones who run after their own whims and prostitute themselves in order to be blessed by irresponsible rulers?

The Audacity to Write

Sarah **CHERRABI EL ALAOUI**

This winter was very cold
I felt that I was getting old
At night, I could hear the rain falling
I could also hear those voices calling

Under my blanket I was sitting
My left hand was bleeding
I cut myself, I did a suicide
I got up and looked at the outside

No body, no one, nothing
I felt on my left hand something
I looked at it and find it red, blood

I needed help I started calling god

I was screaming but no one could hear

I was crying but no one was here

I was doing all this on my inside

I was alone all the time on the other side

But I loved it I enjoyed it
I was suffering but I liked it
I was sad but could not cry
I was trying everything to fly

I remember those crazy nights
Where there were no lights

No it's not what you think
No drugs, no drink not a blink

I thought the society was to blame

My nights were all the same, full of shame

But then I realized that it was me

I felt that I was my own enemy

I just had one wish, end it
I just wanted one thing, stop it
But I couldn't, I needed audacity

I needed the courage, the capability

Now I am the same person,
Maybe happy but not certain
I'm still alive and it's the essential

My future is unclear, it is still critical

I learned how to accept it
I learned how to live with it
Simply because it's impossible to change

Now I look sometimes bizarre and strange

Wild and Wonderful West Virginia!!

Naziha BAGUI

Saturday, October 29, 2005 - I can hardly realize that only seven weeks are left for me before I go back home. Time has gone by so quickly. When I think of the day I first set foot on US soil, it seems as if it were yesterday. No wonder, all is well that starts well. I still remember my warm welcome and I wish to express my most sincere thanks to my friends Jennifer, Maggie and Ryan. You made me feel at home from my very first encounter with America. When I try to figure out why time seemed so short, the only explanation lies in the great moments I spent here and the rich experience I shall take back home.

The city of Morgantown is totally different from what I had anticipated. It turned out to be a very pretty and welcoming home for students from a wide range of cultures. Morgantown hosts, in perfect harmony, students from almost everywhere in the east coast; New York, Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia, Atlanta, as well as other countries. Such diversity gives the city a young, unique and distinctive look. Prospect Street, Arnold hall, fourth floor or "the international floor" as everybody calls it here, is a real melting pot. Students from Denmark, Turkey, England, Ireland, Australia, Japan, China, Germany, USA, and of course Morocco are continuously, though



unconsciously perhaps, laying the grounds for a world of mutual understanding and tolerance. This unique environment is a daily learning experience for each one of us.

Among the memories that will stay with me is the Governor's visit to the university and the few words I had the privilege to exchange with him. I will never forget the parties I was invited to and the multicultural jokes I learnt here. Nor shall I ever forget the delicious dishes I was treated to

by friends from all over the globe.

To my fellow-students in Morocco I highly recommend West Virginia University but wish to warn them that missing a couple of classes here may spoil your whole semester.

All in all, I shall miss the Wild and Wonderful West Virginia. I shall miss my friends but hope to see them again, either here or in Morocco. Who knows?

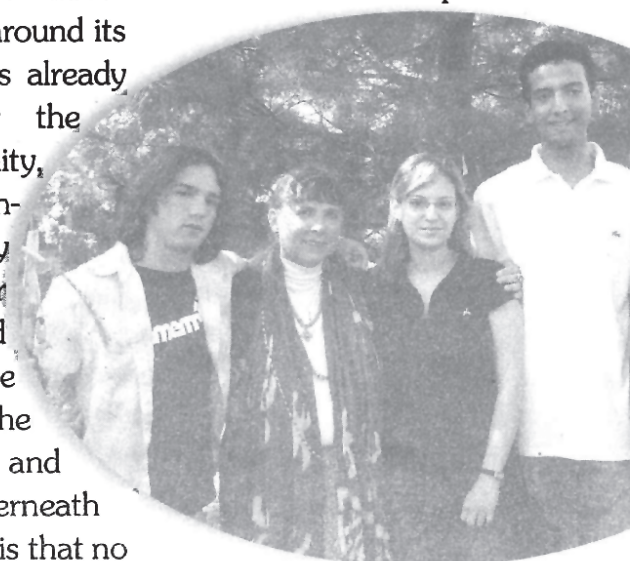
Hail the Peace Tree

Tarik EL FECHTANI

West Virginia University, or Mountneer's University as they call it, have been negotiating with AUI about planting a peace tree around its campus. This idea has already showed success for the West Virginia community, uniting its Indian-American community with the rest, calling for non discrimination and gathering to help and be there for each other. The idea of the peace tree and the 4 corns put underneath facing the 4 directions is that no matter who you are, or where you are, you're in this world, and we share it all.

This idea of peace along

the same country, erasing all discriminations based on race, ethnicity, or color should be applied everywhere in the world. That's what the responsible for



the Morgantown's peace tree (West Virginia) thought about after their visit to AUI. They



were there not only to show the

Indian American culture, but also to negotiate planting a similar tree inside our dear campus.

The idea of the AUI's peace tree being discussed is to integrate the Amazigh and the Arabs together as part of a One Morocco, having the tree as a symbol of the union, and having ceremonies every year to commemorate it.

In the peace tree ceremony that took place this year, our exchange community consisting of myself and Nada Elfahli, were invited to take part in it, where they gave us a symbol of coordination to be delivered to the AUI's responsible.

Photos by: Tarik El Fechtani

Heading For North America: Al Akhawayn Alumni

Brahim A. OUZINEB

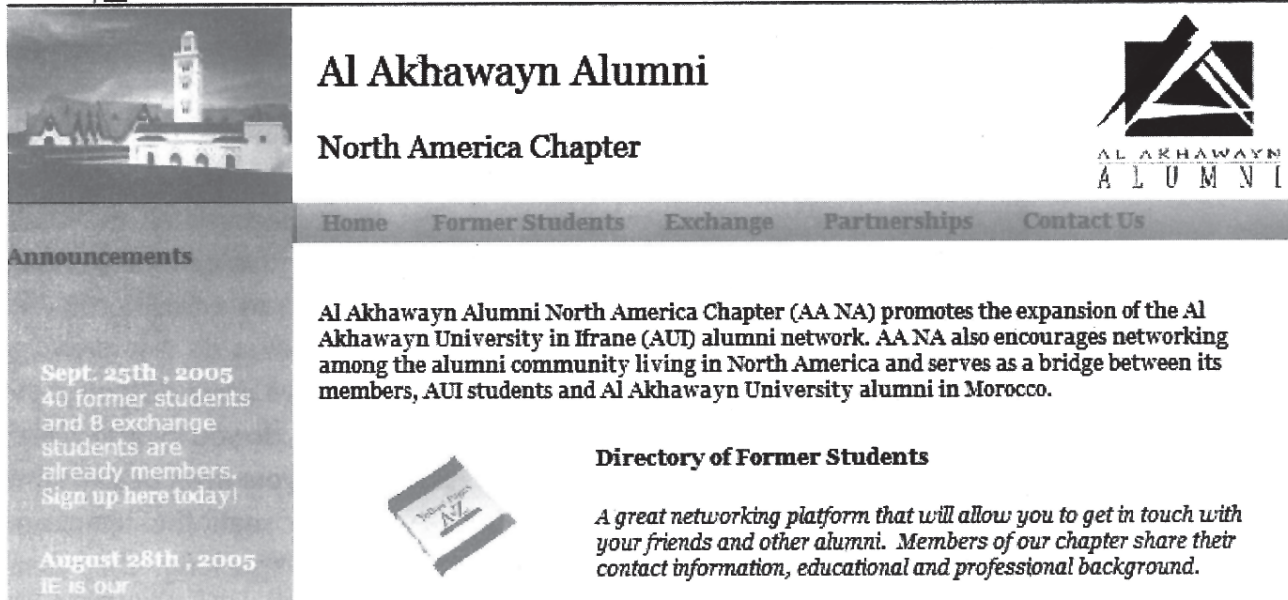
In the past two years, most of you were able to appreciate the great achievements of Al Akhawayn Alumni Asso-

MFF: AA NA Chapter acts as a liaison to AA in North America. We work on the expansion of AUI former students' network in this region. The chapter will develop strong relationships with

The website allows members to input their personal information and connect with other members. Today, the network has 51 members – 41 former students and 10 current exchange

fore and during their stay. We will also explore the option of developing incoming and outgoing exchange programs through our connections with universities. New exchange students are encouraged to sign up in our website before their arrival to North America and should let us know if they need assistance. We can put them in contact with former students in the areas where they will be staying or visiting. The chapter works on making exchange programs a better experience for AUI students.

Address  <http://www.aa-na.org/>



ciation (AA) through successful events such as the AUI Job Fair or the Ftour Debat. But did you know that AA has a chapter in North America? Mohamed Fassi-Fihri, AUI former student who currently live in New York, is the Coordinator of the AA North America Chapter. He answered our questions...

The AUI News: When was Al Akhawayn Alumni North America chapter created?

MFF: The chapter was created in January 2005 after the approval of the Al Akhawayn Alumni Association Board in Morocco.

The AUI News: What are the main objectives of the chapter?

The chapter works on making exchange programs a better experience for AUI students.

organizations and universities in North America and Morocco in order to provide professional and educational opportunities for our community. In addition to that, AA NA Chapter will collaborate with AUI International Programs Office and assist AUI exchange students during their stay in North America.

The AUI News: What have you achieved so far?

MFF: Our website was launched on August 11th, 2005. You can visit it at <http://www.aa-na.org>.

students. 8 are in Canada and 43 are located in more than 15 different states in the US. This is an important achievement considering the fact that our presence was almost unknown before the launch of the website. We make sure that the chapter is regularly advertised through different channels.

The AUI News: How can current AUI students benefit from AA NA Chapter?

MFF: That's a great question! The chapter has already initiated contact with Mr. Robert Burgess and Mr. Wadia Ait Hamza at the AUI International Programs Office. We will be working collaboratively in order to assist AUI exchange students coming to North America be-

The AUI News: Can current AUI students get involved with your chapter?

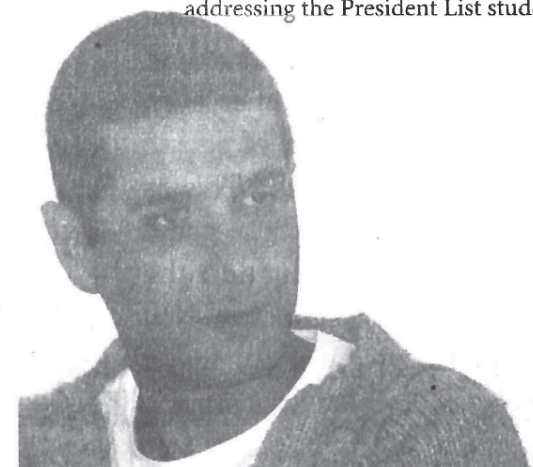
MFF: Sure! In fact, we encourage AUI students to get involved. Our main goal is to expand our network and create educational and professional opportunities for our AUI community. We will succeed only if we all stay connected with each other and develop a strong bond between former and current students. We encourage current students to spread the word about our network, get in touch with us or with AA and let us know about their plans.

Please visit the chapter website at <http://www.aa-na.org> for more detailed information. You can also send any questions, comments or suggestions to coordinator@aa-na.org.

The ad business is successful in Morocco. It comes third after Dubai and Liban and about 350 ads are shot in Morocco per year.

NABIL AYOUGH

addressing the President List students



Icemen: the beginning

Brahim Ait OUZINEB

Q: How was the beginning of the Icemen?

A: The Iceman team was created in the end of 1996 when a group of students who loved the game emerged. We were craving for the basketball playground which we did not have at the time. It was thanks to the Student

game because we organized some fundraising with the help of the charity association that later became hand in hand. We gathered money for the people of El Hajeb, which brought the students' support for the team and pushed it to qualify two university championships (1997/1998). We reached the

those who lost their relatives in the event. This is what helped bring people together, and besides, we were only 600 students.

The Alumni association did a great job asking us to come back and play. This association benefits from good working experience which brings along leadership skills and a high sense of responsibility. These characteristics we find not only at work but also in basketball and in sports in general. I remember that we had huge fights but we kept it inside the team.

Q: Talking about the Alumni association, it is often blamed for organizing events and communicating them at the last minute?

A: We came here to have fun because we're doing something that we enjoy. We found a good team to confront, and whose members seem to have a love for the game. They were about 50 people cheering up the two teams. If you think that it's not enough, I would argue that it is a pretty good beginning. I agree with you that two days is short notice but let's take it positively. Despite the poor communication, we had fifty people. Next time, we will do better for when we come here; we do not come only to have fun but also to see what our university has achieved and what changed in it. It is for sure that the student help build the university. We do sports, initiate activities and pursue our studies. But once you leave the university, it is the students of AUI that go out there, and so you carry a huge responsibility with you.

Q: Who was behind the idea of the game against our new basketball team?

A: The idea was that of the Alumni Association, and more

importantly of the ICEMAN team which left AUI. They are all the time in contact despite the distance. After playing today, we're going to get together again whenever the occasion presents itself in Morocco. It is always fun to see people with whom you shared a lot. To play at our second home gives us a sensational feeling and pushes us to come back all the time. Hopefully the alumni students will set this as a tradition.

Q: You have played against the new team, do you think that they are up to your level of strength?

A: I have seen the team and physically speaking, they need to improve. Technically, and concerning individual talent, they are fine. However, they need to work on the first page of the basketball handbook. This is very important and that's what we did when we first came here. You do not build a team around one player; it is the fruit of a unified effort with one common project. Before touching the ball and starting matches, what we did was run and run even more with Mr Fitz Patrick as our coach.

Q: This is a good example of faculty involv-

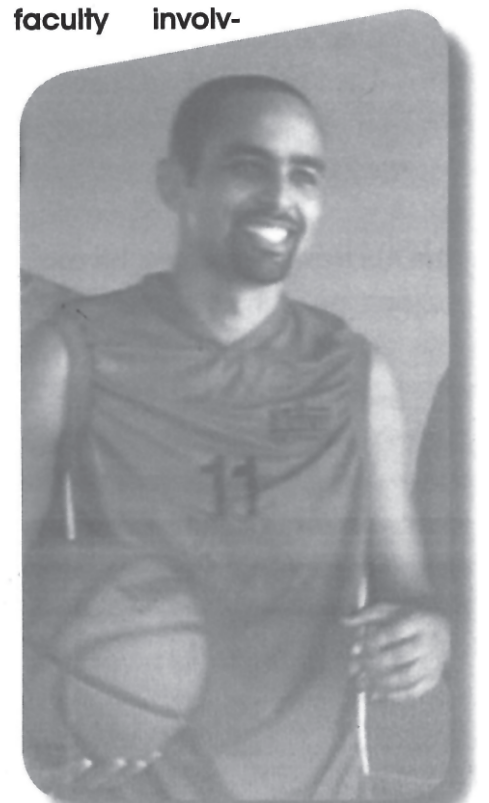


Activities Director at the time, Myraim Jaidi, who brought two sets of basketball boards, that the beginning was made possible. They were put in the parking lot 1 of the university. That is where the story of the Icemen began. We started to practice often, sometimes even at 12pm, and a group of people was moving with us. This is history... Our first official game in the gym came about after the El Hajeb event (flooding Nov 1997) where we lost our friend Samia. Everybody was at the

semifinals in 2000.

Q: What don't we have this bonding anymore

A: What brings people together is experience. Since, we were shaken by the catastrophe in El Hajeb, we used to have friends coming from all around Morocco but we don't know what happened to them. As a result, we got nervous and were in the dark about the fate of our dear friends. Once we got the results, everybody attended the game to share the agony of



MOURAD MOHSINE
in the match leads the team to an easy win

ment in campus events; Mr Fitz Patrick is a psychology teacher in contrast with what happens of faculty's inertia as to events these days?

A: I think it is a good thing to have faculty involved in order to break the ice between them and students. Students can talk about anything with teachers out of class hours and sports is the best sociable mean through which they can discuss anything. Office hours are never

enough to talk about class or course problems. Believe me, students should know that this is a privilege that only AUers enjoy and that AUI and only AUI offers.

Q: Are Alumni players willing to come back and help the team?

A: Absolutely, I would be very proud to come help the team if the AUI administration allows me to do so. I am ready to come

back and pay my university back for all that it offered me. Trust me, what I learned with the Ice-men goes beyond studies and will never wither.

Q: What do you think of the Alumni association's weight compared to its alike in the U.S.?

A: We have to be realistic; the Alumni Association has been operating for only a short period of time. It needs enough

time to know the workings of things. I see that the contact between the association and the president is pretty smooth. It does not need to go through the secretary to talk to him about anything. As for the team, we are still in good terms thank God. We also teased the new icemen (that they are) to see how they would react, and I am really pleased by the reactions of some of them.

Q: As an alumnus, what did you learn from the workplace that you can to pass on to the new comers mainly?

A: The first thing that is more of the truth than an advice is that sports' contribution to one's life is valuable. Besides, the good health, you make friends and socialize in matches off campus. We received a team from Spain once, and although we did not speak spanish, we communicated well through sports. When you finish your studies, the spirit of competition and teamwork are of a great value which you realize only once you start working.



A New Coach For our Snowqueens

Youssef EL HAYANI

The AUI feminine basketball team is back. This semester, major changes took place. First, new players have joined in order to beef up the team. Second, Mr. Nabil Lemseyeh, former player of the MAS club, has been appointed coach. This had a great impact on the overall atmosphere. Now, the team is more organized, more disciplined and regularly attends the two weekly training sessions in which they started applying some high basketball techniques and working on some effective combinations.

In other words, AUI can finally claim to have a high-level basketball team that will be able, in the near future, to compete

with other universities in major national tournaments. This should not be taken for granted however, because, according to Mr. Lemseyeh, there is still a lot of work to do especially regarding the players' motivation, which is a major problem among the team members. Concerning the reasons behind this lack of motivation and discipline,



it is due, according to Mr. Lemseyeh, to the fact that there is not much incentives that may push AUI students to perform sports in a more professional and regular way. By incentives, the coach refers mainly to the few sport scholarships given to



the university's best sportsmen. Those scholarships could, in fact, incite them to attend more frequently and to show their skills and talent with a greater willingness. Besides, the students are not yet aware of what it takes to build a real team. They content themselves with playing for fun the game that they like. Despite all these shortcomings, we can still rely on Mr. Lemseyeh's professionalism and optimism. Above all, he proves to be full of energy and willingness to push the team forward. So we give a warm welcome to Mr. Lemseyeh and good luck in your mission with AUI's all-stars.

Soccer Competition or joke of Ramadan?

Zakaria EL RHEZAOUI

The tournament attracts a huge number of students whose footballistic skills widely vary. So, the teams that take part in this tournament are characterized by the participation of some guys who the only thing they know about football is probably the name and what they saw in television broadcasts. Still, they do not miss the opportunity to discover how it feels like. Excellent and very skillful players are also present, however, and they add more value to the tournament, and make it attractive and interesting. Therefore, many spectators take the challenge of coming late at night to follow the interesting talents and shows presented by these skillful players, individually as well as through team performance. However, others find it more interesting to assist to the funny shows and strange moves and faints that some football "beginners" improvise in many games.

This year, the tournament witnessed the participation of twenty four teams put into four groups, five teams in each group; so each team had the chance to play four matches. What was special about this year's tournament also was the imposing of a new rule that created chaos and disagreement of some teams, while the majority of teams supported it, and insisted on implementing it. The rule was persisting on the fact that no team had the right to have more than three players who play or played in the AUI official football team, playing at the same time on the pitch. As a result, some "usual standard" teams that used to play with the same official team's players in many tournaments, including the former champion as well as its runner up, were obliged to split and form different teams that

did not have the same coherence and performance. On the other hand, this rule gave the opportunity to others to show their talents and reach advanced stages in the tournament, and I mention especially "Qadam Adahabi" and "Tagrawla" teams which did great job. Mentioning those two names, I want to talk about the funny names that labeled the teams during this tournament, and that reflected in some cases the truth and the



Mr Kamane explaining the new regulations to the official team players

reality of the level or the players of these teams. We had names like: "Just for Fun", "La3yaka", "Tsunami", and the funny team of "Jamaica" featuring the members of the AUI Radio.

During this tournament, players as well as spectators



Tagrawla Team: Semi-Final

enjoyed real moments of excellent footballistic moves, and assisted to strong and rivaling games. There were also games where one side was playing football and the other was doing something else other than football. So, some matches ended

up with scores of 2-1, while others witnessed scores of 12-0. Unfortunately, some disrespectful acts were witnessed during some games, where people lost control of themselves, and a number of clashes escalated between different players, and even between players and some spectators. Thankfully, things were quickly handled, and the troubles were immediately controlled. This was not the only bad thing that affected the atmosphere of the tournament. As usual, the very unprofessional level of referees was once again a factor that affected the tournament a lot, and players complained a lot about many "peculiar" decisions made by those "referees" and that nobody understood because they are only in those



The games attract more and more people despite the cold and rain

referee's football rules. We would like to get informed about this set of rules as soon as possible, and I also think that they should be communicated to the FIFA, so that they are urgently adopted in the Germany 2006 World Cup. Those decisions were many times vital and altered the results of many games. The answer that the organizers were given was the fact that those referees are not professional. We agree, but it is too much!!! At least there are obvious things that do not need much professionalism. Also, it is only one tournament a year, so it should be well organized.

Why not bring in one or two professional referees, especially for this unique tournament??!! It is neither very demanding nor expensive, and it is worth it.

As far as the results are concerned, in the second round, "Tagrawla" and "La3yaka" were qualified from group A, "Alkadam adahabi" and "Lhaked" from B, "Anonymes" and "Liverpool" from C, and "Friends" and "Experience" from group D.

In the semi final, "Alkadam adahabi" played against "Liverpool" in the first match. The game was very strong and rivaling, and the final score at the end of the match was a draw of 1-1. The two teams went through the penalty kicks stage to determine the finalist. Luck was on the "Liverpool" team's side, which reserved the first place in the final match. In the second semi final, "Anonymous" played against "Tagrawla", and the game was again very strong and rivaling, but this time "Anonymous" won in the 50 minutes of the match.

Both "Liverpool" and "Anonymous" had successful missions in the previous rounds of the tournament, and they presented wonderful games because of the talented players in both teams. A very strong and vivid match will face the two teams who will for sure put all their energy and skills in winning this match and be titled the Heroes of AUI.

The date of the final match will be communicated later, and it is expected to attract the largest number of spectators. So, we hope this important match will not be affected by the dilemma of referees and we hope to see a professional referee, not an AUI one. All my respect to our dear referees, but I am sorry, that is the hard truth and we know it is not your mistake.