

THE

AUTUMN

NEWS

Garbage on Campus

This article reports real incidents that happened to me personally, it's not invented or written to hurt anyone but to teach a lesson that should be learned anyway.

I walked to the hall of four beautiful dormitory building 34. Two big packages of paperboard and some plastic bags dominated the place. And as I walked downstairs to the first floor I found a mountain of 70 packs of garbage, in the hall of the first floor. There was a **very nice** smell and the contents were visible; packets of cigarettes, pizza packs, paper, packs of corn flakes, private things for girls, restaurant packings and so on.





Sara Benbachir

Ever since its foundation in 1982, Operation Smile has succeeded in providing free reconstructive facial surgery to "tens of thousands of children and young adults in 25 developing countries and the United States, bringing them new hope and new lives." Last March, Operation Smile team of volunteers came to Meknes and AUI, been represented by both Hand in Hand association and the German Club, provided the volunteer translators who were numerous to participate. An experience that is not easy to summarize, as it helped in bringing back the smile to 166 faces, but let us listen to what our volunteers have to say about it:



"I so much wanted to get involved with the Operation Smile teams since

a long time, and every time, it was overlapping with other academic work. However, this opportunity that I finally got to experience made me more aware of the health issues in Morocco, a very poor situation for sure but that could be changed with the good will of people."

Sara Ait Imoudden

"I learned a lot from doctors who were dedicating their time and energy for the well being of others. I learned from patients, and I will never find words to say how much I learned from the "happy girl" as everybody called her. She was just happy all the time despite the big cleft lip on her face. I can't wait for next year's Operation Smile and for any other opportunity to give and to learn."



Ghizlane Aqariden

me."

Khalil Jabrane

"I learned how important to draw the big smile on children's faces, how the job can be well done in a professional way, and how to struggle against time, empty stomach, and sleeplessness in order to have the mission accomplished and to offer children and patients the needed care. I enjoyed a lot working with them; it was a good experience for

"Each of the volunteers got a different post, some helped as translators, others helped by playing with the small children, and some helped by making the folders for each patient that came. After all it was fun and exciting to meet all the doctors and to help the patients."

Hanane Legrouiri (ASI)



Clubs Corner

AUI Motor Sports Club

AUI Motor Sports Club is the latest born club in our university. Created by a group of motorsports aficionados, its starting point was a common strong interest in Rally. The Rally idea shifted into the creation of a club to quench the thirst of all mechanics and speed fans. The Club's agenda is full of opportunities for AUI students to live unforgettable experiences. AUI MSC organizes Karting, Mini Motos, Navigational Rallies, Nav-scatters, Auto-tests in country fields, Rally school days, marshalling various motor sport events and more.

The club is particularly faithful to its credo: making this passion available for all!

If you have the need for Speed... Join Us!!!

By Kawtar Jalili



Orientation Leaders

The main activity of the Orientation Leaders Club is to assist new students by organizing a variety of programs that makes them involved in the community. The Orientation Leaders try to create an atmosphere that facilitates the communication and inherits well established relationships. On the other hand, the club conducts campus tours for AUI visitors and special guests, and participates in the different student forums that are organized in Morocco. Among the Club's activities is representing the university in the big event "Le

Forum del'Etudiant" in Casablanca in April and the organization of the next orientation session. In addition, the university organized a roadshow entitled "AUI Ambassadors" led by students, staff and faculty. The objective is to implement a development program in high schools in the major cities of Morocco. This tour took place during the midterm break.

By Taha Ibnou El Madini

Erasmus

The ESN (Erasmus Student Network) Ifrane Section started its activities this semester by the invitation of the AIESEC Morocco section. AIESEC facilitates international exchange of thousands of students and recent graduates each year. Students benefit from either a paid traineeship or volunteering for a non-profit organization. Since AIESEC members are students of private and public schools from Rabat, their invitation was an opportunity to get in touch with AUI students. During the session, they presented their different activities and specifically the internship offering process. By the end of their visit, application forms for internships abroad were distributed to be filled in.

The Next activities of the ESN Ifrane Section will be gathering Exchange students to discuss the different aspects of their stay in Morocco, especially talking about culture and academics and how

they see their stay in Morocco.

By Fatima Zahra Benayad

Tamesmount Nel Akhawayn

The NAS enjoys the prestige of being the only Native American Studies Program serving the Appalachian region. At the same time, West Virginia University has an ongoing exchange with Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. This has involved the exchange of several students since 1999. The WVU-NAS faculty and students will showcase a Native American International Cultural Exchange from April 11-16, 2005, hosted by Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco.

The five-day cultural and educational program will celebrate American Indian cultures alongside with the Berber culture via Tamesmount Al Akhawayn through workshops, panel discussions and lectures, demonstrations, live dance and music performances, films, traditional storytelling, exhibitions and community activities. A side trip will include a visit to the Al Akhawayn School of Ifrane, a K-12 American based facility, in presenting a short cultural program and DJ Party. A 3-day en-route stop is planned for Exeter, England for a "mini program" at the University of Exeter sponsored in part by their Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

By Sara Ait Lmeddoun



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Letters to the editor

Human Rights

Do you know that in Morocco, you can publish anything in the website and go unpunished? This may give food for thought for our hackers and binary mongers and many a time, a Moroccan website is hacked without being able to find out who did it. Many people venture to break the three sacred Moroccan catchwords without being subjected to any judicial measure as Karl Stanzick, who manages a Rabat-based ISP called MTDS (Morocco Trade and Development Services) says. However, traditional journalism is censured more than all especially when they deal with God, sovereignty (SAHARA) and the King.

Newspapers have talked

abundantly on the public hearings on TV orchestrated by the truth commission named by His Majesty. It is definitely a positive step since the advent of the Ministry of Human Rights in 1993. Everybody talked about a willingness from His Majesty to put a gory past in the attic of Moroccan history. Here I would go back to a colleague's article on Al Hayat. She thinks the two dates of the hearing are memorable. I do not know what is memorable about reconciling with one's years of lead. This is surely and by all standards imposed by international partners and supervised directly by His Majesty. However, the country should have done this a long time ago and gone beyond by punishing the perpetrators of such ill deeds and those who ordered them. When

my colleague says that the hearings were subjected to no distortion while anyone reading the press or hearing the victims talk would have concluded that the reality is elsewhere. The victims were not allowed to give the names of their jailers and many of them did not state all the facts and preferred to leave some events in the dark sides of themselves. Since the Moroccan Indemnity Commission's main goal is to reconcile Morocco with its history, it had at least to set a barrier between the past and the future so that such events will not happen again. Instead, the Commission is only to report to His Majesty who will decide about steps to take. Surely, this would not leave the coming generations good memories as the forcible disappearances are still committed

at a large scale. Adding to this, our recent history has taught us that many dossiers of corruption though they set out a clarification affairs, they ended up in the shelves without any resulting conclusions. Hopefully this time, the unclocked truth would become crystal-clear to gain back the trust of Moroccans.

Response to the article: Et la virginité...

Imane Benyamna

Response to the article: Et la virginité... written by student Sarah Chrrabi to Avant Garde.

In the beginning of her article the writer claims that the issue of virginity is very important and must be discussed.

I think that it is not something new, that this topic in Morocco, especially in the last decade, has been explored by many different mass media television, newspapers and magazines. In addition to that, parents today are more willing to talk about it. Even if it is still hard for many families, but it is not seen as a taboo in the same way as it was in the 80s for example.

The writer asked questions in her first paragraph with no answers within the article. For instance she asks if Islam imposes virginity. There is no such a word as "virginity" explicitly described in the Quran or even in the Sunna, but many connotations and implicit statements are stated especially banning the act of "Zina" or sexual intercourse between a male and a female outside of marriage.

A very crucial point is also mentioned which I think should

have been discussed in more depth. The issue of having "external sex": an act of having sexual intercourse without penetration.

Having sexual intercourse in Morocco without penetration has become a tradition in Morocco. Many girls (by many I mean lots of girls that I personally know, who were close and far away friends) claim that for the society they must stay virgin, and that there is no guy who "worth" their physical virginity unless they will get married to him.

In my point of view It is due to education. As young females and as children we are taught that virginity is very important, that if we loose our virginity we might not get married and find a husband, that it is sinful to have sex and more specifically if sex will make us loose our virginity. Moreover, when we grow a little older we find out a way a, smarter way in the eyes of many girls and women. A way to have sex, get the pleasure but stay virgin! Therefore there is no need to loose the hymen or the physical virginity.

In schools talking about sex is forbidden none talk to you about it is forbidden and virginity was a taboo. It is only when you get older and well educated that you can read and sexually educate yourself, and become knowledgeable in this area.

Another important point that was raised by the writer is the omnipresence of lies in our Moroccan society.

The virgining girl, who has had sex, lies to herself, to her future boyfriend, and to her husband. Moreover, she lies to her parents, to many people surrounding her, and basically to the whole society. It is obviously due to many reasons; some of them are outside factors. These people with the society work as barriers for the girl pushing her to lie, and hence it is a back-and-forth process: you push me to lie because you will not accept if I do not hence I will lie.

An article in Tel Quel magazine-number 141 and written by Maria Daif and Ahmed R. Benchamsi has overtly discussed virginity. It was very revolutionary in its intent since lots of people discussed

it for a long time. Basically one of the major arguments of the article is that the taboo of virginity is not perceived the same way as years before. Both men and women today want to have sexual intercourse. The article argues that being a virgin for a female; or looking for a virgin girl, for a male is considered a backward behavior. The article included witnesses who provided their point of views about the topic as well as other related issues were raised: Fellatio, cunnilingus, reciprocal pleasure, sexual positions etc.

I liked her way of addressing young female, and questioning them about the way they are going to educate and be sincere to their children because I think it is frankly something we lack in our education within home and outside.

I also appreciated the article though it is very short for such a large topic that has so many historical, religious, and social backgrounds and roots. However, it is a good start that proves free expression for young female writers.

S.O.S GRADES!!!

Houda Ougaddoum

It seems to me that the goal of almost all the students I've met so far is to get A's in all their courses. Then everybody starts complaining about the flying rhythm of the classes, difficultiestofollowordeal with the class load, some of you even complain that the teacher cannot understand your feelings as a student. But did you ever think about tutoring? Tuto...?! Yes that one; I think you heard about it! So why don't you just use it!

I've met Mr. Mittan who is coordinating this service and I got some clarifications about the subject that I will share with you, hoping that you'll benefit from it. Everything started with a pilot project funded by a research grant, then, it developed to become a permanent service at the CAD. The Tutoring service organizes tutoring sessions intended to provide students with an extra learning assistance outside the official meetings with the teachers during class time or office hours. What is nice about it is that the tutor is generally a peer, undergraduate or graduate, who has already taken the course. This allows students to deal with somebody of nearly the same age - may the chronologically

advantaged teachers not be offended - who understands their feelings. However, not everybody can become tutor because many qualities are required to lead effectively this task, and contrarily to what the majority thinks, an 'A' student or an "expert" is not necessarily an effective tutor. A tutor has to master the subject he would teach and consult regularly with the course instructor about the content and the teaching methodology, but most important; he must have extremely good communications skills, so he would know a lot about the subject but also would understand the view and way of thinking of a confused beginner, and thus needs to have the ability to go back and forth between these two situations. So, if you feel you have all these qualities you can fill the form and have your teacher make the recommendation (in case your instructor is no more teaching at AUI, another instructor in that field who taught you could make the recommendation), and return it with a schedule of the time slots where you would be available for tutoring. This is a good experience to have' as suggested by Houssam Lahrech, an SBA student who tutors two courses and is himself benefiting from tutoring services.

You gain self assurance and get to master the course by working on explaining it to the others. Each course has different time requirements for preparation, thus tutors get paid on a basis of 30 Dhs per hour, including actual tutoring time and training meetings with instructors. But money should not be your only reason for tutoring! Now that you know what is needed to become a tutor let's move to the easiest thing: sitting on a chair and benefiting from this FREE service. Yes, this service is still at no cost to students, this may be subject to change according to the budget, so seize the opportunity and benefit from this resource. Tutorials are, for most, made in small or medium groups, but also individually (I'm attending an individual Csc1401 tutoring) or on a drop-in basis (the latest are announced to all students enrolled in a course, they can then choose to attend at any time the service is offered). You have a

tutoring sessions currently; others can be created depending on the availability of tutors, the interest and need of students, and... the budget. If you are interested in participating to a tutoring session, all what you need to do is to stop by the CAD Tutoring Services, consult the list of courses and sessions available, and sign up for a particular tutoring group to attend throughout the semester, this procedure ensures a constant size for the groups so you won't start with eight and end up with forty-five students.

Tutoring is a good service but it may need some improvements; during fall 04 there was an exceptionally high rate of attendance and involvement of students in tutoring. This semester was less attractive; tutoring still exists but not as last semesters. Students who use this service or want to use it are more than welcome to give it some thought and if they have suggestions to make this service more beneficial to AUI community they are most welcome to share them with the coordinators.

Contrarily to what a majority thinks, an 'A' student or an "expert" is not necessarily an effective tutor.

large choice of courses that have

Run German Club Run

Brahim A. Ouzineb

A black board stands at the entrance of the game room with a restaurant menu written in white chalk. Another food invitation again. It seems the clubs have found the best way to attract the students to their events. Since the emails nor the flyers worked, why not

I knew later that it is the German Movie Festival. It seemed a committee was nominated mainly for this event. The pressure of Dr Haddouti and the excellent aura he left seems to last despite the distance. Headed by Mr Excellence Maison "Soufiane Bensaid" and other good members, the committee did really a good work in attracting people distributing the tickets to students in the restaurant with seat numbers to assure a

decent presence for two mythical movies. The committee had ten members who worked on the film choice, the decoration of the game room and the pop corn and it took them three weeks to prepare for the event. Indeed the student lounge was made a hospitable and comfortable place. Still the president, Adil Ben El Khattab regrets the absence of a specialized room for the projections of such kind. It is shameful to have to accommodate the game room each time for film projection.

The Movie Festival of two movies was a success mainly through the help of security agents who have to come by to close and open the lounge for the members during the week. The cleaning ladies were available to make lounge as welcoming as possible. Beside the

restaurant stuff made good popcorn and the student activities together with Said Qassimi provided the logistics and the encouragement. As for the reaction of the audience, they were very encouraging and positive. Everybody was impressed by the good organisation and the quality of the movies.

According to Mr Ben El Khattab, the club is growing in professionalism and it has adapted itself gradually to big events. 'The responsibility of the members makes the exception' he adds on. Assigning an event to a committee assures the continuity of the club since each member would find a task to do. He personally does nothing to keep members motivated but the meeting attendance gets bigger.



To Advise or Not ... that is not the question!

Dounia Kchiere

AUI is one of the rare Moroccan institutions that offer its students the opportunity to benefit from an advising system. The effectiveness of the system, however, has become a matter for debate.

American universities have long ago adopted a system whereby faculty members guide students through the labyrinth of college requirements; selecting courses, scheduling classes, establishing academic goals and helping students achieve those goals. But this arrangement has not been as successful here as one might have thought, or hoped. While some students have benefited from having someone to help them choose courses and prepare their degree

plan, others question the usefulness of advising at AUI.

S., for example, argues that the idea of advising is excellent; but it is not done in the right way. She says: "some advisors have no willingness to listen to students, and do not help them in making their degree plan. Furthermore, as a scholarship student, I was appalled when I found that my advisor did not know the procedure the university follows with scholarship students. Then I deduced that there is no coordination between the administration and advisors. Therefore, how can I trust a person who does not even have the merest idea about my



position?"

G. says that she consults her advisor solely to know about available places in courses she is interested in or to have a signature for the pre-registration — but not for help in long term curriculum planning.

B. charges that advisors discourage students by telling them that they are not

able to take some courses without having any idea about students' level.

Also, she wonders if advisors have any background on advising before having the responsibility to decide on the students' future.

R. thinks that advising at AUI is just a formality that does not lead to anything substantive, especially since some advisors don't seem to have the ability to respond when students ask them about links between their majors and their future careers.

Other students defend their advisors noting how difficult it can be to deal with all the problems that come up.

H., for instance, says: "I

like to go to see my advisor because I feel comfortable while I talk to him, and he always helps me in making decisions on the choice of my courses. He, also, helped me to get over my hesitation when I had to choose my major; he gave me an idea about the job opportunities that each major guarantees. And she added, "Unfortunately, many students, even some who complain, do not go to see their advisors to take advantage of their experience".

If the quality of advisors, and their advice, seems uneven, then perhaps the question is whether advisors might be given clearer guidelines, and whether students might make a greater effort to get better advice.

A Tragic Story about Garbage

Karima Saadaoui

I went to my classes and when I came back I met my roommate who complained about the horrible smell that distinguishes our building from others. She told me that she saw a girl walking to the hall, looking sideways before putting her nice garbage and adding it to the huge pile to make it even higher. With no shame, she returned to her room, disregarding the sneers of my roommate and the maids who were there to clean the floor and the rooms as usual. The university can brag about its excellence and the responsibility of its students, but these students failed to respect their fellow residents and make their private dormitories a pigsty.

My roommate and I decided to e-mail the SDA about the problem for they are supposed to defend the residents and find solutions to their problems. Their reaction was disappointing since they answered the email with a simple "suggest solutions!" Worse, the Housing Department decided to leave the garbage in our building all week as a punishment to those who blemish the floor. To my bad luck,

my parents came in that weekend and they saw the miserable place with the very nice smell where we live. Besides the usual blame I got for not moving the garbage myself, I had to hear the comments for not complaining to the administration about such backward behavior. Finally, the Housing Department decided to remove the garbage after failing to convince residents to correct their behavior, but as they say in Egyptian Yamin Yesma. The next morning, a resident from first floor in building 34 left the garbage in front of her room waiting for the Housing Department to decide maybe a month later to remove it!

The Housing Department sent us a questionnaire but the funny thing is that not only did they neglect to collect it but also they gave no instructions for where to leave it. One thing is that they asked the residents how much the fine should be to punish the people who are responsible

for this garbage, and choices were 50dh, 100dhs, and 1000dhs. Basically, garbage leaves can give any amount of money to pay the fine and they will repeat the same behavior because for them it's not a problem of money but a problem of education and ill manners.

The Housing Department has to think of making the hallways more agreeable and good looking in order to dissuade the residents from considering them garbage rooms. The students should be encouraged to have an internal SDA

representative in the building to solve such problems. Hall Directors, who are in the office the whole day, could respond effectively by patrolling the halls. One may argue that this is a problem of students but the administration through gentle control can make the situation a better one and get hold of the culprit. I came across an interesting statement that in boys' dormitories there is no problem of garbage. This is shameful for girls.

Therefore, I invite girls in building 34 and other buildings that have the same problem to be aware and put the garbage in the containers outside near the main door of the building because it is the only place where garbage should be. By doing this simple act you participate in keeping the environment clean and you cooperate with the maids who do an excellent job to keep AUI a clean place. As you know we live in the cleanest city in Morocco which is Ifrane and we should benefit from that, not changing it to a polluted and dirty place like other cities.



For & Against

...CAD or CADS...

Sara Benbachir

"There is absolutely no value to CAD the way it's set up now."

This was said by a student at a listening unit meeting at the end of February. Other students at the meeting agreed. How widespread this perception is remains unclear, but there is a growing debate all over campus about whether the Center for Academic Development (CAD) can be effective the way the program has been designed. The program opened in 2000 as a way to (ensures smooth transition of students from the high school level to the university level) help Moroccan high school students adapt to an American system of

higher education. The debate over CAD is largely focused on why students are not required to take CAD courses in advance of regular ones. For example, some students may not take Interpersonal Skills and Social Interaction (SSK 1205) until their last semester. CAD critics say this course should be taken before any regular courses. Another student at the listening unit noted, "Applied Independent Learning Methods and English Composition cover the same material, so how can the CAD not be a waste of time?"

These courses both focus on understanding the structure of

difficult texts, producing academic writing following APA guidelines or format and citation, and improving academic English. It is true that these are not the only purposes of SSK1204, but why do these two courses have the same function? "If students make progress in one course," says CAD Director, Catherine Owens, "then we will let them go. Our students often arrive without those skills that any high school student should have coming to college. Particularly, they do not have a developed set of thinking principles that will help them to succeed at a university level."

Ms. Owens says the Center is working to integrate Moroccan and American systems of education. "CAD is based on 20 years of research and educational experience," she says. "We have seen how in other countries where English is not the mother language students have not succeeded

without some kind of program like CAD". Ms. Owens stated that the benefits go beyond taking notes and developing computer skills to communication. They include analysis, critical thinking, reading, and using information in a scientific and objective way — instead of relying on rumour, anecdote, and misstatement. These methods, she pointed out, help students become better researchers and "to contribute to the world of scientific knowledge". Ms. Owens adds that if students are wondering about the benefits of CAD courses, and if they believe the program is a waste of money and time, it is because so many students "still have many troubles transferring skills and abilities and applying them in real life. They learn the skills, but they are still not able to use and exercise them."

Nevertheless, critics of CAD question whether the program leads to any improvement in students' study habits. Asked whether he had seen improvement, one professor in the School of Business Administration, replied, "I have no idea."



Dear 'professors'

Sara Oubidar

Just imagine being confronted, as anyone of us is from time to time, to somebody who really makes your blood bubble: They believe everything you don't; they value everything you don't. You rather prefer to be miles away from them, somewhere where you will not be obliged to listen to what they say, because, and this is the least we can say, you don't have the chance to argue with them. Now imagine you don't have the choice, because this person is your professor, and you have no choice but to listen, take notes and be graded, with the knowledge and the belief that their evaluation to your work is proportional to where they see you, very low under them!! Isn't that a big joke?

Everyone who's ever been in that position knows it's a horrible one to be in. And we are numerous,

but we are all afraid to talk; all afraid to fail a course because we cannot afford it. Then how can we express our frustration and attempt to make professors realize the negative effect their behaviors have on us?

Normally and in an ideal world, there would be an implicit understanding through which all professors should differentiate between what is personal and what is professional. You don't like us, that is very all right for us, but do your work correctly regardless of who we are. It would be nice indeed if every professor knew, as some of them do thank God, that their job is to teach students what to do, and not how to do it. We shouldn't think the way you think to be good students, or analyze things the way you do to have good grades. We have our own ways to deal with things, and as long as the concept we are learning

is understood the right way, and this is your job, no matter how we express it, it is not your problem.

Their bad reputation is ahead of them; this is why we avoid them at all costs, but sometimes, they are just inevitable ... Why? Normally, in any other job, if you aren't fulfilling your end of the bargain, you won't keep this job, full stop. But here, it is very different. The evaluation forms we fill out are good in theory, but what effect do they really have? These professors

get to keep on "teaching", if that's what it could be called, despite the fact that nothing but legitimate complaints from students come in. These professors know they have a very low chance of being fired and don't seem to care or put any effort into what they do.

Honestly, isn't this Sad? We are seeking for two important objectives, Excellence and Identity! How can they be achieved if we keep things the way they are? ...



Just Look on the Bright Side of it!

I stress...

Fatima Azzahra El Azzouzi

If Descartes says "I think, therefore I am", a university student would say "I study, therefore I stress". As an AUI student, you are not likely to be the exception. You use words etymologically related to "stress" practically every day, especially during the exams period. A Humanities student is stressed because s/he has ten papers of a hundred pages each to submit the following day. A Business student is stressed because the Accounting Equation doesn't want to balance. An Engineering student is stressed because s/he has been sitting in front of the PC for 24 hours, trying to fix a run-time error. A newcomer is stressed because it has been a long time that s/he hasn't seen his/her family and because AUI workload is not that much "welcoming". An exchange student is stressed because Moroccan people behave in a very strange way. A student coming from Casablanca is stressed because Ifrane is too less stressful than Casablanca. A student from Marrakech is stressed because Ifrane is too much colder than Marrakech. In the computer lab, you stress because you have to queue for the printer while you have to hand in your homework in exactly two minutes. In the restaurant, you stress because you have to queue for half an hour to take-at-the-end-a "not-well-cooked 'steak dedinde' + cold frites" menu as usual (you don't have the choice after all!). In the room, you stress

because you want to sleep while your roommate is studying. At AUI, you stress because you are stressed and there are no activities organized by the Student Activities to relieve your pains. You are stressed when you hear the words "mid-term" and "final"...

To cut a long story short, everything that doesn't go well is called "stress"!

Look at all those bad things that stress brings. When you are stressed, you can't concentrate on your studies. You get sick, you feel uncomfortable and you start crying without reason. You can't sleep at night or you're sleeping all day long. You feel that you can't live without the support of your friends and parents and maybe the psychological counselor. Sometimes, you feel like you are dependent on those people.

If I asked you what this horrible thing called "stress" could be, I imagine you would say: "the circumstances" or "life is tough". You probably think that the "stressful" situations you encounter in your daily life at AUI are the cause of the harm. I would say: "They are not. Those situations can be the cause of your happiness". You may think: "What's this crazy person saying?"

... just look on the bright side of it! Actually, the bad consequences of the hard situations that you

encounter in life are only the result of your imagination. You don't stress because you face stressful circumstances, but because you are used to hear people saying that those situations make people feel bad and embarrassed. For instance, the situation of a heavy workload doesn't have in itself a bad impact on your psyche. Instead, you were used to hear that this student is burned out because he has too much homework to do and that he has got bad marks because he was stressed. Those are only common beliefs that you unconsciously decided to consider as "truths", and hence you became a victim of your negative decision of believing in harmful thoughts. However, stressful situations could be very helpful if you try to change your thoughts and see the positive side of life.

In fact, each "bad" - I would say "challenging" - experience in your life makes you stronger and teaches you how to deal with the next challenging situation you will encounter. It gives you a chance to prove that "circumstances" don't have an authority on you, and that you can control circumstances by adopting a positive perspective. This probably explains that some people say: "I feel that I work better under stress". Also, you may discover that you stress because you lost things that are not that much important in your life. Then, you will learn to enjoy the things that are more

important and that you didn't pay attention to before.

By looking on the bright side of stress, you won't need anymore help from others, because your positive thinking will help you. You may even notice that you are able to help other people to overcome stress!

Just try to think positively and you will find that Your Will is superior to anything else. You just need to activate it! You may find it difficult at the beginning. It's natural that your brain rejects any new possibility that is different from what you used to think. But when you activate the will to change your way of thinking about stress, you will see that life is really good.

Finally, I'll remind you that most of the celebrities over History lived at first in very stressful conditions. Because they believed in the power of their will, they eventually succeeded. I hope that the next "challenging" situation you will find will be a "wake-up call" for you to enjoy life!



Connect the Dots

* The designers in our university must have been absent when the poster on the admission in AUI was being made. A professional communication agency invented its own icons that do not match AUI at all.
* It seems Ifrane's officials do not drive through to Meknes since the road has been unpractical for about a year now and nobody reacted.
* It seems like the timing of the shop is temperament dependant. Open whenever



you don't need it, closed whenever you need it.

* We were invited to a salsa show. We ended up with watching an erotic oriental dance by an almost naked Ruby made at AUI.

* The area in front of the Office of Student Activities is not included in the sectors of the Security officers. All kinds of beer take this opportunity to make love together on the green sofas by night.

* The faculty lounge in

Building 8 did not escape from PDA. Now, the faculty members should take the approval of two lovers clinging to each other in order to use their own room. Instead of an approval, a professor is more likely to get shouting from the masculine lover protesting against this kind of discrimination. What a shame to not be ashamed acting like this even with professors!

We had a break too!

Fatiha El Alaoui

On Sunday March 12th, 05 the housing staff accompanied by the housing Director Mrs Bahaji conducted a trip to Fes and the Site le Gite Dayet Aoua .This initiative is meant to provide for the group a kind of break which coincided with the Mid-semester students break, and was an occasion for housing stuff to meet each other and show a good example of community life development. Some ex-Housing stuff was also present.

The group of 14 persons headed of to Fes at 09.00 by the university van. The trip started by visiting Fes Royal palace, and then Palais de Fes Dar Tazi, where we were welcomed by the hotel manager Mr Tazi and other personnel, and we were offered tea following the Moroccan tradition.

The next destination was the old Medina! Abd Rafi, as the city native, volunteered to act as our guide, and explained to us many important historic details. His very serious role of guide was interrupted many times by his colleagues' funny comments.

He also offered us a fantastic Moroccan lunch

at home with his nice family members, which was a good surprise for most of us, this lunch time seemed most like a feast moment (thanks to his wonderful mother).

We attended a Jazz festival too in the public place Riyad at 16.00; we enjoyed a music mixture of Gunawa and Jazz played by Moroccan and French artists.

Having spent a very enjoyable and exciting day at Fes, we left at around 19.00 towards the site le Gite Dayet Aoua for dinner. Arrived, we were warmly welcomed by the restaurant manager, and offered very nice atmosphere.

As it started, the trip ended in a very cheerful way and we kept all wonderful impressions!



How About the Customer Satisfaction?

Is this a reality or a simulation? The story starts on January 23rd, 2005: registration day. The course we are required to take is scheduled on Tuesdays-Thursdays from 15.30 to 17.50 to be taught by a faculty member. The faculty member is not yet assigned but the schedule is great!

Few days later, we receive an email: The course is going to be taught by an ancient professor of AUI. The glitch is that he would "teach" only during two weekends for a total of 40 hours.

Dear reader, the objective is not to bother you with the following detailed schedule, but rather to give you an idea about how things are to be going!
Friday from 15.00 to 19.00,
Saturday and Sunday
From 9.00 to 13.00 and from 14.30 to 18.30.
Isn't it great?!

The issue is that there are students who don't have the choice.

They have to comply with these unbearable conditions since this semester is supposed to be their last one.

Our dear customers, we are not going to stop here! On the 5th week of this semester, on Thursday afternoon, students learned that they are mandatorily required to attend the seminar offered on the following Saturday, and three more other seminars scheduled on the following Saturdays - again whole day - for a subsequent examination. Because it was not sufficient to confiscate two weekends from you, we are adding up 4 more weekends! Are weekends a right? Are we allowed to have personal life? Are we allowed to plan something different from usual, in weekends?

Are we obliged to abide by these

conditions?

I don't recall having signed or read anything anywhere about being deprived of my weekends! Nobody is here to answer our questions!

Nobody thought for a while about talking to us or explaining the matters! Nobody thought about apologizing for the inconvenience these disrupt schedules might cause!

We understand that it was

impossible to hire a faculty member to insure a regular and normal course teaching. We have accepted the fact by sacrificing two full weekends and being ready to concentrate and assimilate new material during these weekends, but we haven't expressed any desire to give up all our free time!

Are we really your customers? Does our satisfaction matters for you? It does not seem so!

Conclusion: The reality is "do what you are told to do!" The simulation of "Students are customers!" Is a marketing strategy of SBA!

Don't forget there is a newspaper through which you can express your opinions

auinews@aui.ma

SBA in students' eyes...

Interviewed by:

Fatima Azzahra El Azzouzi

Omar SENHAJI, MBA

What's your perspective about a Business student at AUI?

The knowledge you acquire at the school is very limited and you don't use it that much in your job. The most important skills are people and relationship skills. What you use in your job is about 10% of the skills you acquire in your studies.

How do you think the school should address this problem?

I guess internships. Making people do long-term internships. Because actually the students who take summer schools don't have time to do long-term internships. And it's really important to get used to a

studies, but their application in practice.

Do you mean internships? Apart from internships, there are some trips organized to ministries and there are lab courses here for practice. Also, there is an AUI internship association that finds internships for you, so it's easier to find jobs.

According to you, what are the problems of the SBA? One problem is that some courses are complicated and they become harder because of the language. Because even in French there are some difficult terms, so in English you may find it harder. Also, there are some new professors that give too theoretical lectures and don't explain the material well.

first were, because they are pre-requisites for other courses. This is actually the task of advisors.

Do you think the SGA can play a role in solving these problems?

Actually, I can't tell you whether the SGA do their job or not, but I think they have a certain power, and if they take it seriously, it could be better.

Kawtar JALILI

What's your perspective about a Business student at AUI?

First, regarding the profile of students who graduate from the SBA, we can complain about the fact that it is a little bit United States-oriented. This problem can be easily solved if we make some efforts in this sense and if we are interested in the

I think the SBA is a very good school because it provides students with very good background and it gives them the opportunity to make a good career.

According to you, what are the problems of the SBA? Concerning the problems of the SBA, I think the School lacks qualified teachers because they're having a hard time hiring good teachers. I think this is the only problem we have.

Do you think the SGA can play a role in solving this problem?

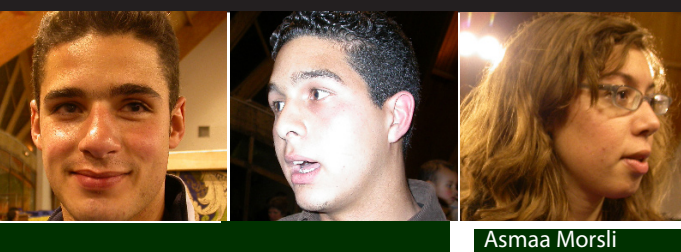
Yes. I believe that if they talk to the Dean of SBA,

organization doesn't do its work and only make us suffer more. So it would be better to cancel it, especially when you know that students are facing problems on which the SGA members can't represent us with the administration because of fear.

Asmaa MORSLI, senior student

What's your perspective about a Business student at AUI?

I think that the SBA curriculum is good. However, what I think is bad is the method of teaching. Instructors seem not mastering the subject matter of the course and



Asmaa Morsli

Moroccan Market, because there are real projects to work on in this domain.

According to you, what are the problems of the SBA?

I would say a relatively general model of studies that doesn't give freedom to the innovation and creation of students. For example, there is always the same syllabus and the same program is repeated over and over again.

Do you think the SGA can play a role in solving these problems?

Definitely, I am sure that the SGA can play an important role of communication between the students and the SBA administration. Recently, we have seen that the SBA is conscious of the problems and tries to fix them. So the SGA would constitute the student part of this process.

Amine JELLAL

What's your perspective about a Business student at AUI?

about this issue, he will report this information to higher level managers of the University who may change their mind and start looking for good teachers.

Zakaria EL REZAOUI

What's your perspective about a Business student at AUI?

As you know, most of AUI students are in the SBA. Despite the great demand for this school, we suffer from a lack of teachers, especially teachers of a high level, particularly in basic courses. We hope that the University will be able to solve this problem but also to contact companies and find jobs for students. For instance, the Job Fair was a positive measure that the University has taken to facilitate the entrance in the job market for students.

Do you think the SGA can play a role in solving these problems?

Honestly, the SGA is only a virtual organization that exists only on paper. This

they only give outlines. I know it's an American system and students have to learn things by themselves. But it happened to me that when I ask a teacher a question relevant to the course, I never get a convincing answer. Another problem that I faced in my studies at AUI is related to instructors, too. It's their way of talking in English. For example, I swear that, in some courses, I couldn't understand what the professor was saying and I didn't learn anything from those courses. I had to study by myself. During class time, some teachers talk about topics that are irrelevant to the course. There are other courses where I really did suffer because the teacher was repeating the same things in different courses.

Any other general problems about the School?

One major problem about the SBA is internship. We pay 2 credits for the internship to present a

job, to acquire new skills in jobs. I have an experience so I know that what you actually use of your knowledge is very little. So you learn a lot on the job when you get there.

We heard about a lot of problems from Master students with databases and search engines, with supervisors and with faculty in general. What do you think personally?

To be honest, this is my first semester so I haven't had any problems yet. So far so good.

Oussama BENACHOUR

What's your perspective about a Business student at AUI?

I think if you have a good GPA and if you are 'à jour', you are likely to get a good job. Moreover, at AUI, not only do you find theoretical

What are the solutions you suggest to these problems? It seems to me that the new Dean is close to students and knows their problems. I think the major problems of SBA that should be solved are academic advising. An advisor is meant to assist you in the selection of courses and how to perform well in your studies. At AUI, we don't have specialized people in this domain, we have only professors executing the task of advising. If there were a specialized advisor, it would be better.

Do you think advising is a specific problem of the SBA?

No, I think it's a problem of all schools. For example, when I was a new student, I didn't know what the courses that I have to take

report, while the University doesn't even intervene to find internships for us. At this level, we still need "les coups de piston" while we know that the University has partnerships with

multiple national and multinational companies. The University is not able to find us internships as any other school like HEM, ESG and IGA do. These are schools that are less

known than AUI. So why not AUI? Is it that they don't have contacts? Or that they are ashamed by presenting us as their students? What exactly? I think it's their duty to find us internship,

since not everybody's father has connections... Do you think this is a specific problem of the SBA? Actually, it's a problem

that concerns the three schools of the University. I am stressing it because I think it's a very important problem.

...and in the Dean's eyes

Interview with Dr Najib Harabi, dean of SBA

The AUI News: Since you came to SBA, what were the most relevant problems you encountered in the School? What did you do to solve them?

Dr Harabi: At the very beginning, it was a period of learning about the School, its people and programs. At the same time, I had the pleasure to ensure that everything in the School goes smoothly. For me, it was really important to know directly the students, too.

The AUI News: Were there any specific problems that you found in the School?

Dr Harabi: Well, the SBA, as other schools of the University, is facing challenges of growth. As far as I'm concerned, the most important item is to consolidate the School. Besides, we should look for ways to diversify our programs so that we can attract more students, but also satisfy our students. It is a major issue that the School offers new programs for our students, as well. But the main issue for us is to improve both quantitatively and qualitatively.

The AUI News: Since we are talking about programs, some students claim that the available programs are not suitable for the Moroccan market. What's your response?

Dr Harabi: There are always areas of improvement in our School and this is one of the areas I looked at when I came. It's an important concern for me that our training is applicable on the real world. In this sense, I invite people from outside the University to cover Moroccan issues. For instance, I had the pleasure to invite Dr Alaoui to offer a special course on Moroccan Accounting and Taxation. Moreover, I invited people to give lectures about Moroccan issues,

as did Dr Kassal, the head of the "Moroccan Federation of Small and Medium-sized Businesses (PME)". Also, I asked every faculty member to deal with Moroccan

The Job Fair was also a good opportunity for our students. At the same time, we are introducing a new program about Corporate Finance. I tried to talk to people



They will be real projects with real firms, and our students together with students from SSE will work in groups on concrete problems in the textile industry.

cases, because teaching is not purely theoretical but it's also practical.

Another issue I've been working on in this sense is the issue of

our students should be entrepreneurial, too. They should look for internships themselves and be proactive in the program.

internships. In fact, I contacted our Alumni Association but also foundations like Attijari Wafa Bank. I talked to the President of this foundation about cooperation in the area of internship. The role of the foundation consists of looking for firms having problems that our students can work on in "stage de mission". They will be real projects with real firms, and our students together with students from SSE will work in groups on concrete problems in the textile industry.

from the finance industry on incorporating topics relevant to the job market in our programs.

To summarize, I try to find different ways to make our programs closer

to reality and I am not done with it. As you can see, there are some responses to this issue but we still have to work on it.

The AUI News: Related to the issue of internship, some students claim that there are many partnerships between the University and companies but there are no internships ensured by the School for students. So, are there any projects already implemented in this sense?

Dr Harabi: Yes, there are at least

3 or 4 programs that were running this year. At the SBA, there's only one mandatory internship and our experience with internships is relatively new. The first internship program was scheduled last year and it has been evaluated by students and at the level of the School, based on the reports of students and of their employers. In order to know what's going on in this program, I asked a faculty member, Dr Wafa El Garrah, to be the contact person of the SBA for students and external firms. That's what we did internally: we organized ourselves to better address the issues of our students. On the other hand, I contacted several external potential employers. For instance, we contacted the Ministry of the Interior, which is offering at least 20 places for internship.

The AUI News: Are these internships for AUI students?

Dr Harabi: For SBA students. Also, Attijari Wafa Bank is offering for 20 SBA students to have internships with a firm in Casablanca. I am pretty sure that the internships this year will be better organized. I would like to emphasize the fact that our students should be entrepreneurial, too. They should look for internships themselves and be proactive in the program. This is a partnership between the students and the SBA to make sure that the internship program is better organized.

The AUI News: We can see that SBA has taken an initiative for the issue of internships. But when we talk to students, they don't know all of this. So, is this information communicated to students?

Dr Harabi: We organized two workshops to inform students about these changes and we tried to do face-to-face communication. Fortunately, a lot of students came to these workshops. We explained the procedures and we asked them to send their CVs and to contact

Dr El Garrah if they need help. We have the idea of a third workshop in which students will be trained on how to make advantage of these internships, how to write a report—which has been suggested by students.

The AUI News: One internship program is not enough for students.

Dr Harabi: My concern is to make this existing program successful and evaluate it to see how we can extend it to other years, because increasing the number of internships will be certainly a great issue. My basic philosophy in this area is to make our programs as practical as possible, without giving away the strong academic background of it, as the combination of theory and practice is very important for me and for the School.

The AUI News: Related to faculty issues, students claim that there are some faculty members who teach courses out of their domain of specialization. They think that this affects the performance of teachers. What do you think?

Dr Harabi: I really think that we are very careful about selecting our faculty; about who teaches what, and I think we do our best to put the right person for the right course. Again, we can always improve things, but we strongly believe that our faculty members are teaching the course where they have the training and the experience.

The AUI News: Concerning the evaluation of teachers, how do you deal with it? And what are the benefits that students can take from it?

Dr Harabi: Well, evaluation is a practice in the whole University. The way we do it is almost the same as in the other units. There is the mid-term evaluation and there is the final evaluation. For me, the student evaluation is an important source of information. Both faculty and I take it very seriously in planning how to allocate our human resources for the different courses.

The AUI News: What are the measures you take after the evaluation to improve the performance of the SBA?

Dr Harabi: The Mid-term evaluation

is an internal tool for professors to see how they are

doing in class and to take the appropriate measure to improve their teaching and incorporate the comments of students in the second half of the

semester. The final evaluation is a major element for me and for the University's administration to retain or not retain faculty members. Actually, there are two kinds of evaluation: student evaluation that evaluates the teaching of professors, but also an evaluation done by an elected committee of faculty members that evaluates all the activities of faculty. This committee gives information to the Dean who uses it to make recommendations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and to see whether a professor is retained or not, promoted or not, getting more salary or not.

The AUI News: does this committee perform supervision for teachers to see if they implement the comments of the evaluation?

Dr Harabi: The nature of the evaluation at the University is that it is a yearly evaluation. In other words, there is an ongoing follow-up for each professor. Independently of how long a teacher has been at the University, s/he gets evaluated every year. We have another evaluation tool at the SBA which is maybe unique. It is



the "Major Field Test" that is done by the UNDP and this test is a

benchmark evaluation to see how our students are doing in international comparisons. And I can tell you that we are doing well in comparison

with international schools. But I think it's good to have a quality control system in the School, and we can be proud of it at AUI because we are unique in Morocco to do this.

The AUI News: Graduate students say they have problems with supervisors.

Dr Harabi: Well, each student has a supervisor and I have a list of all groups of students with their supervisors. The professors have mandatory office hours. In addition, we have all means of communication: telephone, email, Mrs Tazi's office, and there is also a mail box where students can leave their messages and memos if they don't reach professors in their offices. I say to all students: if it doesn't work, if there are problems, I have an open door policy, they can come and knock at my door or send me an email, and I will be happy to do this. This is my duty also.

But this is a human relationship between students and supervisors, so students have to learn to manage this relationship. I asked our

faculty to be open and accessible to our students; this is their duty, too.

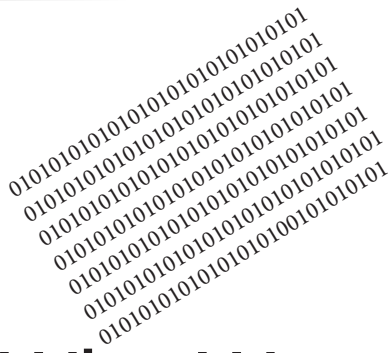
The AUI News: Maybe the problem with master students is that they don't find supervisors specialized in their topic.

Dr Harabi: I really need to know the specific case, I can't talk in general. If there's a problem, they can come and see me and we can see what we can do. But, in general, we don't ask a professor not knowledgeable about certain areas to supervise a work that is not in her/his field of specialization.

The AUI News: What are your projects for the SBA on a long term basis?

Dr Harabi: Well, I have a lot of projects. In the next Fall Semester, we will offer a new program in Applied Economics. In addition, our students should know that we are preparing two major projects. We are setting up a new school for executives that will open at the graduate level, it's called EuroMed School of Business in which AUI – and especially the SBA – is playing a much centered role. We will offer modern courses in Management and trainings with MBA degrees. Another project for the SBA is the collaboration with well-known business schools in Europe like the University of Bocconi in Italy, the EuroMed school of Management in Marseilles in France, HEC in Paris, etc.

The other very important project is that the SBA is working with the University of Lecce in Italy to set up a program in E-business. This is a unique opportunity for blending Information Technology knowledge and business. The goal is to train managers of change who master Information Technology as well as management tools and who can work in firms or in public entities or in E-commerce. This school will contain not only training but also very important research programs in business. We are working on many areas to develop the School: improving the existing programs but also looking ahead and trying to introduce new programs with new objectives to attract more students.



Who We Are?

For our AUI community,

No, you are not dreaming, this is in fact the first issue of AUITECH! In the last few months, you may have probably heard of things like ACM, Contest, Imagine Cup... and others. For those of you, who still don't know what ACM stands for, or what a programming Contest is, this is your chance to know and become a member of the huge computer science community. The Association for Computer Machinery was founded in 1947, being the world's oldest educational

and scientific computing society. The main objective of the association is to enhance the skills of information technology professionals and students all over the world. Today, ACM serves a membership of computing professionals and students in more than 100 countries in all areas of industry, academia, and government. As a matter of fact, Alakhawayn University of Ifrane, a leader in Information Technologies in Morocco and North Africa owns a membership with the ACM. This is what most of you know as the ACM club. However, it is far from being an ordinary club. It is in fact an International Student Chapter, one of the 750 Student Chapters worldwide and the only one in

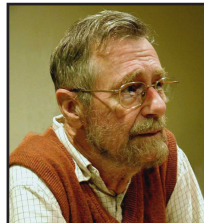
North Africa. This chapter was first created in 1996 by the dean of the School of Science and Engineering, but was unfortunately removed due to the lack of members. Last semester, we decided to go again into the adventure of ACM. Guided by M. Mohammed Reduan Abid and by Dr. Amine Bensaid the dean of SSE we were able to recreate the chapter. Since its second birth, our chapter has organized a bunch of activities for the benefit of AUI community. The AUI programming contest, the student and faculty's presentations, and the conferences organized with notorious computer science figures have known a large success. Last but not least, the domain of computer science in AUI got his part in our collection of newspapers. We created the

AUITECH journal, and here is its first issue. To end with, a special thank to our friend, adviser, and Professor Mr. Mohammed Reduan Abid for his care and unstinted support. He was among the founders of the club and he helped guiding us all the way to make this club a success. We have heard him leaving us soon, so let's wish him the best computer scientist career ever and we hope he will be back to us shortly. A special thank also to all the active members of the club, and please be numerous to give us all your suggestions, articles, jokes and comments, we would appreciate that. ACM is yours, make it better!

BY CHETIBI AYMANE

Who has heard about Dijkstra?

People here in this university who are majoring in another field than computer science would think that Dijkstra is me (or my alias). But, before 2002, a great computer scientist was still alive; his name was Edsger Wybe Dijkstra.



Edsger Wybe Dijkstra was one of the most influential members of computing science's founding generation. Among the domains in which his scientific contributions are fundamental are

- algorithm design
- programming languages
- program design
- operating systems
- distributed processing
- formal specification and verification

• design of mathematical arguments
In addition, Dijkstra was intensely interested in teaching, and in the relationships between academic computing science and the software industry. During his forty-plus years as a computing scientist, which included positions in both academia and industry, Dijkstra's contributions brought him many prizes and awards, including computing science's highest honor, the ACM Turing Award.
By Neyl Benjelloun

Amazon's A9 Search Engine

Amazon.com has launched a test version of its long-awaited search engine last year, aiming to challenge industry stalwarts Google and Yahoo with new efficient tools to navigate and search on the Web.

After seven months of development, A9.com, an independent unit of the Internet retailer, was launched into the net. The search engine promotes a novel design that lets people sift through Web search results, store and view their own search history, and find book information from Amazon.com that are related to query terms. It also provides a search toolbar that blocks pop-up ads.

The ambitions of Amazon.com appear to be much wider. When Amazon launched this new search engine, it emphasizes the development of shopping search technology using the traditional field of Amazon.com. However, A9 offers a new variety of search tools that are directed towards large Web surfers.

A9 is open to current Amazon customers and others who are registered with the site because it offers the opportunity to register into the search engine and have your own account. However, any user can have access to this service even not registered.

Yahoo recently updated its shopping search engine, and Google is promoting its e-commerce engine Froogle on its

home page. Amazon has a vested interest in gaining control of search because it ultimately drives business to its online store.

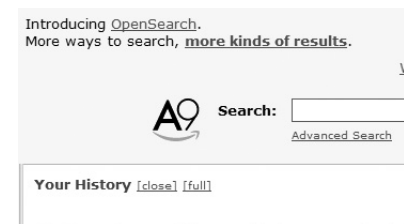
Unlike Google, A9 displays search results with expandable columns to the right, which open up images, book-related listings or a personal history of search queries, movies, and yellow pages all related to the query. In fact, those results will be displayed at the right of the same page. It also displays Google-sponsored ad listings. Data stored on its servers can even tell people which sites they've visited--and when. (Web surfers must register to see their personalized search history.)

A9's toolbar lets users search the Web, Amazon, the Internet Movie Database and Google; it also can

look up definitions. What's novel about it is that it can keep a diary of notes about any visited Web pages and then store them for access on any computer. Besides the diary in kept in the account of the user, and it can be displayed by clicking on its icon at "Search Result Columns" in the right.

People also can search directly from a browser address bar by typing a9.com/query, for instance, "www.a9.com/coffee scene". It's much amazing ;)

By Toto Yasmine El hajami



The eldest detainees in the world

Kenza Charrat

The Story of the war prisoners of the Sahara in Morocco has lasted more than 25 years. Accordingly, they are considered one of the eldest Prisoners group detained in the world. There are 1,481 Moroccan sequestered in the prisons of Tindouf as the ICRC (the International Committee of the Red Cross) reported.

The story of those detainees started since the Spanish colonization. During that period, Morocco has mobilized lot of efforts to regain the independence of the Saharan territory. After the Green March in 1975, the Spanish colonial withdrew from the Sahara, but then raised the conflict of the Polisario Front that claimed the independence of the Sahara starting 1976. Later on, the conflict gained more dimensions especially with the support of some countries which affirmed and supported the existence of the [Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic](#). (SADR). In 1990, the United Nations intervened to impose a ceasefire.

Today, in many maps the

Moroccan frontiers are limited in few kilometers far from Laayoun. Worse, many people claim that SADR is the last colonization and Moroccan forces should desert the regions. After more than 10 years of the ceasefire, the Moroccan prisoners are still detained in inhuman conditions that violate the convention of Geneva for human rights.

Meanwhile, Morocco has involved lot of parties, either national or international in solving this conflict. However, the fate of Moroccan soldiers of the war raised between the two fronts is still pending. They are living a real nightmare in

the prisons of Tindouf where many of them died under the torture and the inhuman conditions of "life". Some of them are suffering from all forms of physical and emotional diseases. "Among these prisoners of war, there are civilians who have no relation with the army nor the military operations. Their only "crime" is being in the war zone at the inappropriate time. This is the case of nomads who were tending their herds, road menders who were clearing sand from the pavement of the road between Tan-Tan and Tarfaya, or fishermen on the coast of Dakhla who were captured by armed men boarding

international associations such as AMNESTY international that had an important role in denouncing the torture and practices that the Moroccan prisoners in Tindouf had to injure. Besides, there have been many associations of former prisoners started abroad which fought a long time for those prisoners' rights.

We have all observed the huge march that took place in Rabat the 6th March of this year and was an expression of the Moroccan nation of its dissatisfaction regarding the oppressions of those sequestered. The question is what makes the government care about those 'anciens combattants' especially at this time. We have all witnessed the enthusiastic motivation of all classes and ages of the Moroccan society for this national issue. Families of victims, political parties, other personalities, and many Moroccan citizens were shouting up for the liberation of all the prisoners who traded their life for that costly portion of our country. Maybe it is a political attempt to tell the world that Morocco will not give up an inch of its lands.



rubber boats" as was reported in different reports of the ICRC.

Only recently did Morocco consider the issue of the sequestered of the Polisario because of the external pressures from

Health Corner Counseling in the Moroccan Context

Chérie Mobasher

There is a saying among Western counsellors and therapists that "secrets keep us sick"; however, in the Moroccan cultural context keeping secrets within one's own family is a sign of loyalty, a way of protecting privacy, and helps maintain a public image that is clean and pure and provides no opportunity for gossip.

The nature of counselling is to establish a trusting, confidential relationship with a professional who listens without judging, criticizing, or scolding. Through this unconditional positive regard, people are able to talk about their deepest fears or most intimate problems without shame. The counsellor's focus is on helping people identify and feel the full

range of their emotions and helping them practice new ways of behaving or interacting. Because revealing secrets is such an integral part of the therapeutic process, Moroccans may not feel at all comfortable seeking counselling help because it would require them to

In the U.S., use of counselling and psychotherapy has become widespread. Students learn about counselling and learn how to deal with feelings and conflicts in the elementary years. Most all schools have on-site counsellors who educate students in the classroom,

is also non-threatening; therefore, counselling becomes an acceptable option in times of distress throughout the lifespan. Seeking counselling has become as normal as approaching a physician for medical treatment. Physicians, themselves, see the link between good mental health and good physical health and frequently refer patients for therapeutic help.

including play therapy; addictions counselling; marriage and family counselling; psychiatry, educational psychology; school counselling; career counselling; mental health treatment, adolescent "tough love" programs, and clinical and counselling psychology. In Morocco, services are still limited because fewer individuals reach outside of the family structure for this type of help.



in the Moroccan cultural context keeping secrets within one's own family ... helps maintain a public image that is clean and pure

and meet with students with a "stranger".

Something that is familiar

The health care system in the US recognizes the need for counselling and, thus, these services are covered under health insurance policies and are available at reduced charge in neighbourhood centers. There are university degrees and training programs and licensure for a variety of counselling specialties

Counselling in Morocco has a future as the country is influenced by the West and as individuals [for example students at AUI] experience the benefits of counselling. It is clear; however, that counselling in Morocco must fit within longstanding traditions and cultural practices.

I have Watched a Movie



Sara Benbachir

Good bye Lenin is a comedy, drama film that has been produced in 2003 and directed by Wolfgang Becker. The film has gotten many awards: Blue angel Award for best European film Berlin 2003, German film awards 2003, Cesar for best European film 2004... The film is set in East Germany in October 1989. Frau Kerner (Karin Suss) has fallen into coma due to a despondent heart attack. Luckily, she awakens after 8 months, but the doctors warn that any demise might kill her. There is nothing that can be more shocking to the single and committed socialist mother than the fall of the Berlin wall and the victory of capitalism. Alex (Daniel Bruhl)

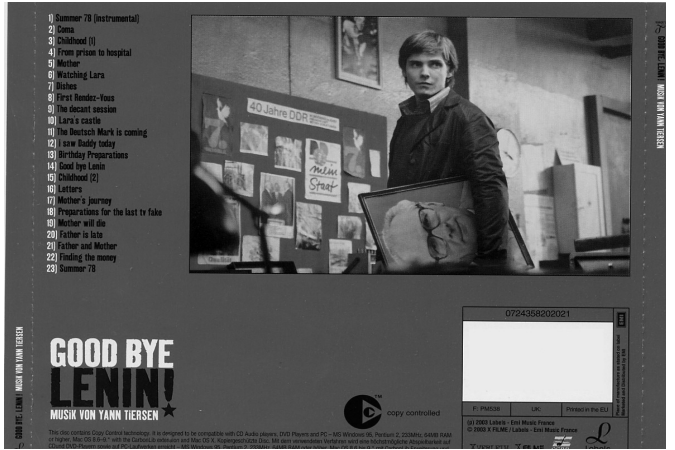
and Ariane (Maria Simon) decide to keep the reunification from her: old clothes and furniture are procured, Ariane puts her baby daughter into the plastic diapers common under the old system, and Alex keeps looking for brands of pickles and coffee. As they try to shield Christiane from cigarette commercials and the sound of the neighbor's brand new satellite TV, they become the producers of an increasingly complex false world surrounding their sick mother's bed. His absurd attempt to shelter his mother from reality are very often funny, but reflect a deep affection to his mother and to the great sense of keeping his family happy in spite of the bad times. The film does

a beautiful job representing the arrival of capitalism in the form of new money, new products (Coca-Cola trucks), new ideologies (when Ariane takes a job at Burger King and when Alex falls in love with the Russian nurse, Lara (Chulpan Khatikina)). Moreover; The setting of the fall of the Berlin Wall serves as a great place to set this story, as it allows the film to give commentary on the changes of Germany's political landscape at the same time as allowing us to take in themes of family, love and the perception of truth that are abundantly clear.

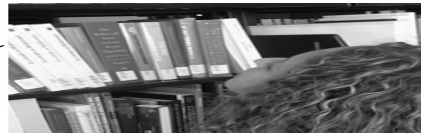
Besides the film has used comedy to present the world of the awake and it has focused on images as a way to transmit its

messages instead of too long scenarios that tell the watchers about all. The film opens the doors to imagination and different interpretations. The best example can be that good metaphor in Alex's search for some particular socialist brands - the packaging may be different, but everyone still eats them and they are pretty

much the same thing to show the dynamic of old and new. However, sometimes the film is over sentimental. On the whole, however, Good Bye, Lenin! Is an absolute treat and most certainly one of the better movies to have been released so far this decade.



I have Read a Book



Houda Ougaddoum

February 20th. I had nothing to do so I went to the Palestine plight section in room 04 - in the library, you can find a shelf for every subject, the most interesting books are at the bottom shelves like in supermarkets, do some gymnastics it won't hurt much! - After looking at around ten books I finally chose a book written by Dr. Youssef Al Hassan, an emirate diplomat working as a delegate minister for the foreign affairs. It was really interesting because he studied the Palestinian case from a different angle than the over consumed common approach. What is funnier is that his lecture was given Tuesday, September 11th 2001, the same day of the W.T.C bombing! The book is entitled: Roots of Prejudice: A Study of the Impact of Christian Fundamentalism on US Policy towards the Palestinian Issue. I

took it even if it held the stamp "gift", I was the first one to take this book out of the library and I renewed it three times. Dr. Al-Hassan's work testifies that our political knowledge is obsessed with a traditional notion that ascribes the success of the Zionist project to the power of the Jewish pressure groups (the Jewish lobby) in decision making circles. But as I told you, he has a different vision and interpretation of this idea. Hence, it tackles the roots of western prejudice - especially that of the US - towards Israel and the meaning of "moral and ethical" commitment in the US political discourse on the subject. He gave some examples to illustrate the relationship between religion and politics in the US community and the role of the contemporary Christian fundamentalist movement in influencing the policies and culture,

whether general or specific, towards the Palestinian issue. The Torah's religious dimension has created the appropriate atmosphere and the cultural, emotional, and spiritual fabric necessary for the Israeli political project to come into existence. This has also facilitated the completion of the elements of this project, together with some key conditions necessary for its survival and invigoration.

The lecture also reviews the religious dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in terms of origins and course, in ancient and contemporary history. Moreover, it presents a new view interpreting the bold prejudice towards racial and expansionist policies, regardless of the considerations of human rights and other political and economic interests. It also focused on the Christian religious dimension imbibed with the

Zionist way of thinking and myths (such as Armageddon, not the movie! but the final battle between the good and the evil, after which Jesus would reign on the world during the happy millennium and then everybody's going to die...) regarding interpreting certain facts of US behavior towards Palestine and the Palestinian issue. I could easily get much information about the lecture but I still can't figure out whether Dr. Al-Hassan did the lecture before, during, or right after the bombing!

The book is in Arabic under DS call numbers section. I hope that my name won't remain the only one in the library record of this amazing book. Be numerous to read it.



I have Read



a Poem



Hind Essayegh

Let me not to the marriage of true minds (Sonnet CXVI)

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wandering bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come:
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me proved,

I never writ, nor no man ever loved.
William Shakespeare

This is a love poem by the bard William Shakespeare. It is about love in its most ideal form. It is giving credit to those who enter a relationship based on trust and understanding. Shakespeare tells how great love is when it is invariable and strong—when it is not affected by time or obstacles, because it is an "ever-fix'd mark" which can surpass any crisis. Although it might seem measurable

and understandable, love remains so unfathomable, so mysterious, and so hard to describe. You have to be in love to know what it feels like. Only true lovers know its actual worth. Love is unshakeable throughout time and defeats even death. Shakespeare, the poet of poets, produced such a sublime piece about the constancy of Love and makes us review our beliefs about it. Here I would like to cite a verse from the Bible which presents the real essence of Love: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy,

it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Corinthians 13:2

Far more precious than diamonds and pearls

Imane El Fechtani

The following incident took place when Muhammad Ali's daughters arrived at his home wearing clothes that were not modest. Here is the story as told by one of his daughters:

When we finally arrived, the chauffer escorted my younger

sister, Laila, and me up to my father's suite. As usual, he was hiding behind the door waiting to scare us. We exchanged many hugs and kisses as we could possibly give in one day.

My father took a good look at us. Then he sat me down on his lap and said something that I will never forget.

He looked me straight in the eyes and said, "Hana, everything that God made valuable in the world is covered and hard to get to.

Where do you find diamonds? Deep down in the ground, covered and protected.

Where do you find pearls? Deep down at the bottom of the ocean, covered up and protected in a

beautiful shell.

Where do you find gold? Way down in the mine, covered over with layers and layers of rock. You've got to work hard to get to them."

He looked at me with serious eyes. "Your body is sacred. You're far more precious than diamonds and pearls, and you should be covered too."

Installing your home page on AUI web server

Students, Faculty and staff member can post their personal home pages on AUI web server. The following steps describe how to do it:

- 0/ Develop your web page
- 1/ Save your page under the name home.htm on your PC,
- 2/ Transfer your page to the web server:

2.1- Double click on "ftp utilities" icon in the Internet utilities program group,

2.2- Fill-in the dialog window with the following information:

Host name= personal
User name= your login (Example:

Miss.auinews or id, type Miss.auinews in the User name field). The User ID field is case sensitive, typing MISS.AUINEWS won't work.

password= your password
Local PC= the full path on the PC where you put your file home.htm

2.3- Click on OK
2.4- If the user ID and password you supplied are OK, local PC files show up on the left side window, and your personal area on the web server shows up, on the right side window.

2.5- On the right side window do: Click on MkDir, then type: www
Click on OK, www subdirectory shows up in the right side win-

dow,
Double-click on www to access this subdirectory,

2.6- On the left side window: Select the file that need to be transferred, home.htm for instance, and other files if you intend to transfer more than one file. (multiple selection can be done by pressing the shift key) make sure that Binary radio-button is selected, click on-> arrow button to transfer the files,

2.7- On the right side window: newly transferred files show up, select home.htm file, click on Rename, then rename it to: home.html

2-8/ Your page is then accessible at http://www.aui.ma/personal/

~yourloginid/
(Example : http://www.aui.ma/personal/~Miss.auinews or http://www.aui.ma/personal/~id/

3/ Your home page will be automatically linked at midnight to the Individual pages area on the web server under your school or department sub-section. or under Students home pages section)

Note: For the web server, file names are case sensitive, so when you reference a file or an image in your home page, make sure that the reference and that the filename are written the same way.

April Fools' Day Pranks

The respected magazine PC Computing was overcome by an attack of pranking fever in 1994 when it published an article describing a bill before the U.S. Congress. SB 040194 would make it a crime to use the Internet while intoxicated or to discuss sexual matters online. Blaming the term 'Information Superhighway' for the legislators' zeal on this issue, the arti-

cle's author explained "Congress apparently thinks being drunk on a highway is bad no matter what kind of highway it is."

2002 saw the British supermarket chain Tesco advertising the successful development of a "whistling carrot." Said vegetable, the product of genetic modification, had airholes in it

that would cause it to whistle to signal its being boiled to perfection, in the same way that a kettle toots when the water therein reaches full boil.



Why it's better to be a Woman!

- 1. We got off the Titanic first.
- 2. Taxis stop for us.
- 3. Men die earlier, so we get to cash in on the life insurance.
- 4. We don't look like a frog in a blender when dancing.
- 5. Free drinks, Free dinners, Free movies ... (you get the point).
- 6. We can hug our friends without wondering if she thinks we're gay.
- 7. We don't have to fart to amuse ourselves.
- 8. If we forget to shave, no one has to know.
- 9. We never have to reach down every so often to make sure our privates

- are still there.
- 10. If we're dumb, some people will find it cute.
- 11. We have the ability to dress ourselves.
- 12. We can talk to people of the opposite sex without having to picture them naked.
- 13. There are times when chocolate really can solve all your problems.
- 14. We can fully assess a person just by looking at their shoes.
- 15. We have enough sense to realize that the easiest way to get out of being lost is to ask for directions.

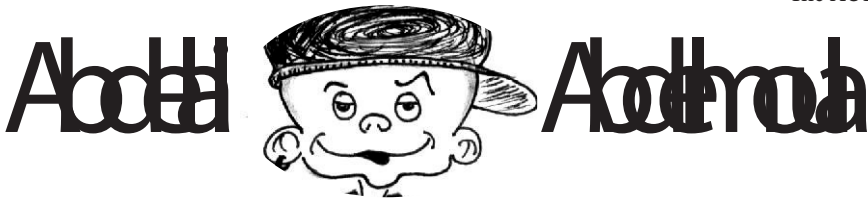
Houda Rachidi's Joke:

"This is the story of four people named everybody, somebody, anybody, and nobody.

There was an important job to be done and everybody was supposed to do it, everybody was sure that somebody would do it, anybody could have done it but nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was everybody's job. Everybody thought anybody could do it but nobody realized that everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that everybody blamed somebody when nobody did what anybody could have done it. "

Who did the job? Who did not do it????



"I am gonna kill those who do not submit their articles on time" the editor in chief of the AUI News

Hey, how are you people if you are reading this article meaning that we made it to the second issue of AUI News. Abdelal is back to tell you a little bit more about his experiences within AUI.

Woman's day was an important event in the past few weeks. That day made Abdelal think about the woman and her situation. Well, woman want to be equal to man..... "safi". It seems like she doesn't think about being "7ssen"-better-than man. Just equal that's all she wants, and maybe not totally equal to man. For example, when it comes to who has to open the door to whom, or when a tragedie "lahya 7fad" happens who has to be saved first, woman don't want to hear a thing. When it comes to who has to pay the dinner and who has to pay the vacation woman don't want to be equal to man anymore. When you tell them these statements aproximatively all the women will answer the same: Its not a question of equality its just politness. I would like to be a woman for a day and see how it feels. Lets imagine that. Zineb Abdelmoula....it sounds good. Would I put the veil, or would I wear a skurt "la veritè" I don't know. Its amazing how everything change when you are in the opposite side. I am at least sure of something if someone harrases me in the street I WILL KICK HIS B***. Oh my god, I was doing that my self when I was a man!!!!!! I must have been a horrible person. Would I have a boy friend or would I wait until mariage. Lets stop this game its going to drive me crazy. At least we-men-don't have to worry about those things, because our society is sexist and favorizes us. If I have a girl friend people will think that its a sign of virility. Besides, if a girl is seen with a boy people will think that she is a S***. According to the Game and 50Cents: "this is how we do", and this is how we will still do until all men for one day try to be a woman then understand what they feel.

Let's back up and speak a little about everyday life on campus. Alrigh you might have heard these days about TCHICHI. Toi pas connaître TCHICHI????? TCHICHI être TCHICHI. No seriously the meaning of this word is beyond what can be said within this newspaper. I will try to explain: TCHICHI is a strange hospitality foreigners within an imaginary African tribe, we are a little lucky that this tribe does not existe. What surprised me is the impact of this word on the students, as soon as they heard it they adopted



it. A new word in this already queer language that we are using. "yalah je suis sorti men lbuilding oughadi nmchile labbach netcheki l'email », if someone understands you outside AUI borders he or she is for sure an alumnus. However what is more strange and dangerous is the small groups within AUI students that talks their own language. For example, when you hear about bombs, fire in the hole and "la base A ou B" thats for sure counter strike players. When you hear "Fou9ach nchoufek felybrary", thats the hard working students alias " l7aRrafa". Well I think I need more time to know all other groups. So expect the next issue of AUI News to be full of stories and news to tell.

Toi pas connaître
TCHICHI?????
TCHICHI être
TCHICHI



Where are you guys ???
Choufou le3yalat 3lach gaddat



Last touches of perfection
on the birthday cake ... I
mean newspaper

