

TWO STUDENTS EXPELLED

One of the students is an exchange student from the US

Alaeddine ZAHRI

On Thursday, September 14th, the AUI student community received through email the decision that has been taken by the disciplinary committee regarding cases of violation of AUI regulations.

The first case was a case of "Access to a dorm of the opposite sex and receiving student of the opposite sex in the room." The committee decided to expel the two students. The second case was a case of drunkenness (Cont'd page 2)

EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION

Brahim OUZINEB

Wissam Khaouid, as the freshman with the highest score in the GAT, has had his name communicated to the "Fondation Academia" to be the recipient of an excellence prize granted by this foundation to the student with the highest score in the admission tests of se-



lected schools ("grandes écoles"). The student

contacted the office of Dr Belfekih to get more information about the prize but he was asked to wait for a call.

The Fondation Academia is a non profit association sponsored by major business companies in Morocco whose mission to encourage excellence.

INTERCIVISATIONAL DIALOGUE

Alaeddine ZAHRI

A round table was organized last Wednesday, November 1st, in the boardroom at AUI. The round table was about inter-cultural and intercivizational dialogue. Present was an important delegation of Moroccan and French humanitarian and development Association leaders, who participated in "Les Rencontres Internationales des Associations Culturelles" in Meknes. The round table lasted about two hours and the subjects discussed ranged from the necessity of inter-cultural and inter-civizational dialogue to the other necessity of social work as a mean of

integrating all the components of a society into the social tissue.



Gerrie Lube & Mohammed Ferjani

ANONYMOUS SUPPORT LINE

Hanae TIMOULALI

A new service is now available on the AUI campus: an anonymous support line. First announced on an experimental basis last spring, the service is now open for AUI students to use starting on Tuesday, November 7. This is a student-created initiative designed to meet

campus needs. Volunteer students were specifically trained to listen to fellow students feeling alone, down, frustrated, or just in need to talk.

This service is meant to help students clarify their feelings and talk about their problems and concerns. The student counselors will not give (Cont'd page 2)

THE SGA PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION

Hanae TIMOULALI

The Student Government Association coordinate CTM transportation services from AUI to Rabat and Casablanca. The operation was successfully performed twice this semester with the departure taking place in the parking lot. There were no complaints concerning the time or the quality of this service and the majority of students were satisfied by it.



JAVA CERTIFICATION TRAINING



Hanae TIMOULALI
NEWS EDITOR

The Association of Computer Machinery at Al Akhawayn University is offering Sun Microsystems trainings here at AUI as one of its activities. The trainings will take place at an AUI lab so that students will not need to go to Casablanca or Rabat to have the trainings. The course that will be offered is about Java Programming, which is a course for getting a certificate for Java Programmer

Sun Microsystems. The trainers are from Innosoft, and it is the first Sun Microsystems Authorized Education Center in Morocco. After some negotiations, Innosoft has agreed to offer AUI students a discount of 20%. This important initiative was announced through e-mails, posters, and also through the invitation that was sent by ACM to Mr. Ahmed El Koutbia, the manager of Innosoft, to give a presentation on Java development and Certification.

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If you advice or tell you what to do--they will be "all ears" to your perceptions. The

support line will be nowimplementedona regular basis; the line will be available from

Monday to Thursday between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Call 554—your confidentiality

is guaranteed, please do not give names or numbers.

Aggressive behavior and the involved student was suspended for one semester. AUI News has learned that oneoftheexpelledwas an exchange student from the US and that he was asked to leave campus as soon as he can make flight ar-

rangements. AUI News has contact-ed some exchange stu- dentstoaskthemabout theirtakeonthediscipli- nary measure that was taken against one of theexchange students. Theexchange students argued that in the US they have visitation

rights between female and male students and that this cultural differ- ence should have been taken into considera- tion by the disciplinary committee especially that this case occurred early in the semester which means that the expelled student didn't

have any cultural adjust- ment time. AUI regulations state that there are no visita- tion rights between fe- male and male students and in case of violation both students would be expelled.

Will Research benefit our youth

Sara AIT LMOUDDEN



cooperationwiththeInternationalResearchFoun- dationinOmanandtheMedinaResearchInstitute inQatar.The main focus of the two days workshop wastoprovidetheparticipantswithqualitytipsfor fundraising, budgeting and network building. At the end of the workshop, we were able to defend our ideas in a round table with all the participants. On our way back home, Zaineb and I thought that if this was beneficial to us then why not reach other AUI students and generalize it to most Moroccan students. Hence, we started our idea in organizing a seminar in spring 2007 that will raise most issues raised by the youth in the MENA region. We have started our talks with different student clubs on campus and would be more than happy to see you come forward to participate.

We just got back from a productive conference in Muscat, Sultanate Oman where we have been invited by The Atlas Economic Research Foundation in

IBM on Campus

Alaeddine ZAHRI

On Wednesday, October 18th, Mr. John Lamb gave a talk on campus, on IBM's Experience Designing and Implementing Large Hosted Internet Web System. Mr. Lamb, a senior technical staff member for IBM in Somers, New York, talked about IBM's experienced designings port and event websites such as the Olympic Games. He also dis-

cussed he architectural challenges for designing websites that could support more than one million hits per minute. The speaker finally talked about how new technologies, such as Collaboration, Grid Computing, and Server Virtualization, could be used to improve the design and architecture of high volume websites.

Adan Issue

Days before the start of Ramadan, some surveys were passed around to students in the restaurant and coffee shop. This operation was organized by the SGA. The surveys consisted of two yes or no questions and explanation was asked in case the person surveyed chose to answer no. The first question was about whether or not the person surveyed wanted to hear the prayer call. Whereas the second question was whether or not the person surveyed wanted to know



why the AUI administration doesn't allow the prayer call to be pronounced from the campus mosque. This survey seems to have had no effect at all since the prayer call was not heard from the AUI mosque during Ramadan.

Editorial

AUI NEWS IS BACK FOR A LIMITED TIME UNDER A NEW SPIRIT AND A NEW SHAPE. OUR FALL 2006 EDITORIAL TEAM STARTED OUT ON A POSITIVE NOTE HOPING TO CARRY OUT WHAT THEY LEARNED WITH THEIR FORMER ADVISOR, MR. MARK MACNAMARA. THE TEAM IS DYNAMIC AND SELF-MOTIVATED AND IS TRYING TO GIVE A SPECIAL TOUCH TO THE PUBLICATION BY MAKING IT NOT TOO STUFFY AND PROFESSIONAL, I.E. RESPONDING TO A SPECIAL AUDIENCE (AUI STUDENTS). THE NEW TEAM MEMBERS, WITH NO JOURNALISM KNOWLEDGE, ARE MOST OF THEM ENGINEERING STUDENTS AND STRIVED TO REACH A CERTAIN LEVEL OF ACCEPTABILITY BY HIRING A NEW ADVISOR. HOWEVER, THE JOURNEY TURNED OUT TO BE A SHORT ONE AND LEFT US WITH SCARS AS THE VISIONS WERE DIFFERENT; A PROFESSIONAL ONE AND A DILETTANTE. WE ARE LATE IN PUBLISHING OUR ISSUE AND THIS WAS DUE TO ALL THESE PROBLEMS THAT WERE NOT EXPECTED AS WE STARTED THE SEMESTER HOWEVER WE MANAGED TO PUBLISH OUR ISSUE AND I HOPE YOU WILL LIKE IT.

IT IS DISAPPOINTING FOR US TO HAVE BEEN FIRED FOR OUR EFFORTS. WE WISH GOOD LUCK TO THE NEW TEAM. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY AND THANKS OUR DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS DR BEL-EKIH, OUR PROOFREADER DR PAULA PRATT, OUR COUNSELOR DR MOBASHERI FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT, AND THE TEAM MEMBERS WHO DID THEIR BEST. HAVE A NICE SEMESTER AND GOOD LUCK IN YOUR FINALS!



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“Orientation? This is a waste of time!”

Hanae TIMOULALI

« There is a presentation now in building 4...and it's mandatory! » This is one of the most frequent sentences that a student ambassador had to say during the orientation days. These days that are normally prepared in favor of the new students turned out to be the most “boring”, “tiring”, and “stressful” days that both the newcomers as well as the ambassador had to go through at the beginning of this semester. Why? Well, I guess it is because people don't perceive things the same way! In writing this article, I wanted to give an insight into what the orientation days may look like. Some people think it is a piece of cake to welcome new people, accompany them to different departments or guide them through the process of becoming part of AUI's community. I can assure you that it is not an easy task, especially when you have more than 200 different characters to deal with!

When people enroll in the university, they have different expectations depending on their backgrounds or where they come from. You can see different categories. First, you have the ones that are worrying about the nature of the new world they have stepped into and how they will adjust to it. Others are more concerned with the most popular places to “pump it up” and have fun.



Another category doesn't even have time to worry; these are the people who think they can do it by themselves without any help. “Orientation? This is a waste of time!” some of them may say. What would you do in this case?

The first day is the discovery day especially at night. It is always a challenge. When you think that you have to entertain 100 or 200 people, the majority of whom are leaving their homes for the first time, you may fall into a state of panic. The purpose is to make people know each other, and the dinner was programmed to be in front of the restaurant. Everybody was there. People were standing in their respective queues or already eating their meals. We tried different things: open mike, singing, dancing, and socializing with people. At the first look, the majority seemed to be interested. However, all what we got is people laughing

or complaining about the “stupidity”, if I may say, of what we were doing. If you were there, then you will probably remember the person who just wanted to eat this dinner without being bothered. That was a very nice way to say thank you to people coming three days earlier to guide you through the process of being an AUIer!

The second day was also a nice opportunity to see how people can be very late and uncommitted. When a presentation is scheduled at 8:30am and people come at 10am, or do not come at all, then why shouldn't you get mad? People find it natural! They claim to be tired and bored. In addition to that, some of the new students think that it is a waste of time. I am not generalizing, yet I think that it is what most of them had in mind. The funniest thing is that you have to work as a police officer instead of being an AUI ambassador. We had to

control the doors, the hallways, and even the residential area to detect anyone running away from the current activity. Personally, I found it very strange to try to control people. I thought they were mature and aware of their obligations and duties. However, my expectations went too far from what we experienced in reality!

The rest of the orientation days were no better than the first ones. Things went worse. The voluntary attendance rate of people went down, and the number of policemen and women continued to increase remarkably. Also, we had some surprises. It was the first time we saw a skateboard on campus! Oh yes, we now have a real skateboard at AUI! That could have a lot of meanings. One could be that this is becoming a popular vehicle among not only teenagers but also adults. Also, it could be that our university is becoming kind of “parent replacement” not a place for young people to grow up and develop mentally, socially, and intellectually. Think about it!

Many people might be thinking that they were offended by what I expressed so far, so I prefer to stop here. My goal is to make the AUI community see what is really going on behind closed auditorium doors during the orientation days. Thus, I hope you will enjoy reading and reflecting!

38 or no 38 that is the question

Houda OUGADDOUM

It is dark in the night (but not too late) when me and my two friends, coming back from a nice dinner, decide to drop by Lamya's just to say hi, but mainly to have a glimpse of her new room.

So the three of us are walking down the freshly built road; it shows it's new because if you don't pay attention in the dark you will trip over all kinds of tools and iron bars that the workers left lying on the ground. Anyway, we pass these

obstacles with some fear and big laughter; the funny thing is that the road is all empty, not a single security agent, but each time we trip over something we turn around to check that none is watching. What started to be a simple “stopping by” out

of curiosity, turned out to be a long-run expedition. Indeed, we reach a point where we are too tired to keep walking and start thinking of giving up this visit, but we've walked too far to cowardly go back to the main gate so we keep dragging our sore

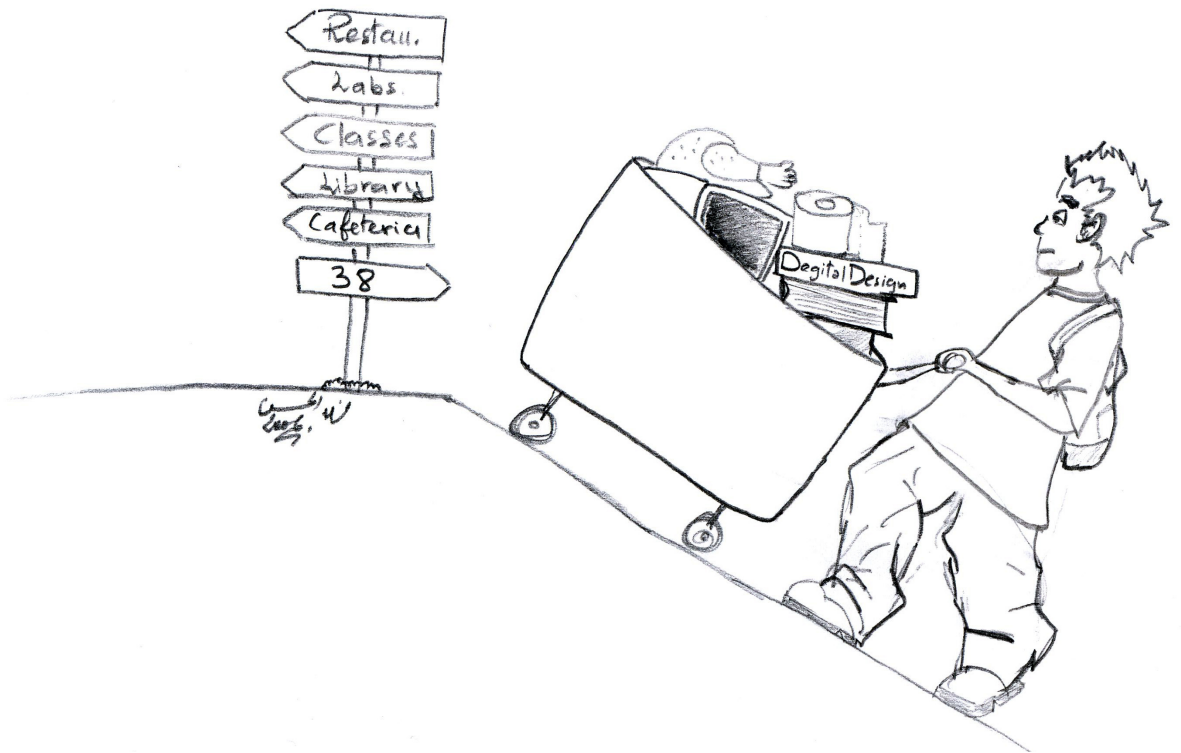
feet up the hill.

One thing when you head to the new building from the main gate is that you first see the building 27 from a new angle; I mean I lived in Bldg. 27 but I didn't recognize it because there was no longer this wall with workers all day long. Keep walking! We finally reach that famous new building of which we heard some rumors that it was for both males and females. Here we are! The first thing we see at the building is the small parking lot in front of it. What a great idea to be able to park your car because obviously you cannot walk this distance everyday. Well, no. "They" told us that actually this parking is not for parking, Ok so what is it for then? It is for students who want to load and unload their cars. I think that a more simple way of doing it is having several small parking lots and give them numbers or names for example S for soccer field, B38 for building 38, M1 for main parking, etc. Then, as it happens in American universities, students can purchase permits of parking specific to certain lots and be able to park their cars there instead of having to walk to the main parking lot, which would also become less crowded.

the hall. This past summer I had been in Centennial A at Kent State University, which is part of a series of new buildings named Centennials because they were recently built to cel-

you have luggage and live in room 405 (I personally don't know who lives in this room but I know it is on the fourth floor). I didn't know that boys didn't have access to the girls' dorms;

right "technical" word for it, but our readers should understand that I still didn't take IP class are badly dispatched in the room. It is quite difficult to hook your computer to a socket under the

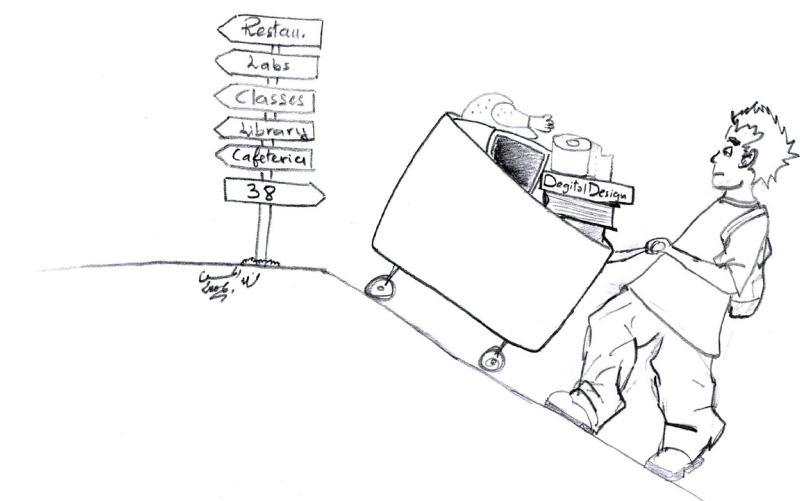


brate the 100th anniversary of KSU. Building 38 has the exact same architecture and the same distribution of rooms including the trash room and the window at the end of the hall (even the ceiling material was the same), so I thought that maybe the same architect had been hired or that AUI had sent spies. A good point for our building is that it has been sound-proofed,

frankly this is not what we thought. I was imagining girls at AUI having the same trouble as me, going out in my jammies (pajamas) all wet from the shower and meeting my friend Roberto in the hallway with all his family. This happened to me and believe me you would certainly not want it to happen to you with your teammate in Software engineering class!

window. It is lovely to have the kitchen and the laundry available that close especially when you live far from the resto.

Anyone who lives in Bldg. 32 as I do, would live a dilemma while taking the decision whether or not to move to Bldg. 38. In my building I am very close to the resto, the cafe, and Bldg 17, and most important it is fairly close to the academic area. On the other hand many of my friends already moved there and it is a great opportunity to do your teamwork downstairs without having to walk through the snow to the library. Talking about the snow, Bldg. 38 is very far and is down the hill from Bldg. 27, so I can't imagine myself struggling for 45 long minutes to go to my classes. This is really difficult, because if you have many books and you live on the fourth floor you would probably decide to go to your room only at night, unless you really commit to working out.



We get into the building, and it looks actually like a hotel. I really love it; with the lights and the housing desk and sofas at the entrance, that's classy! You know when you feel really familiar in a place as if you had been there before? Well, this happened to me when I entered

whereas we really lacked this in Centennials where everybody could hear you walk in your room. I am making these remarks while we are still climbing the stairs to find our friend's room; we are hoping to find an elevator but there isn't any, which could be very hard when

We didn't find our friend but we were able to go into two rooms occupied by other friends, one single and a double occupancy room. The best thing ever, at least for girls, is that you have a big mirror so that you can check everything looks okay before going to class or to train for your arabesque class. The furniture is good and offers many small places to store your little things. Even the bathroom is more delicately furnished and doesn't look like a hospital restroom. Thumb up for the lighting; I still remember when I had that corner single room in Bldg 37 with one sad lamp that didn't help a lot... Two thumbs up for the desk, it is ergonomic and computer-friendly plus the rotating chair is nice, but the "sockets" (I am sure this the

Let's go shoppin' ... at the shop!

Houda OUGADDOUM

AUI is a microcosm of a cosmopolitan society: AUIers are divided into many sub-communities. The ever-growing portion of newcomers has mainly CAD and LC courses so they all cling in Bldg. 4 or 10 or in the cafe. Students from different schools (SSE, SBA and SSHS) rarely get to cross each others' paths outside the hallways, because some are in the lab fixing a run time error, the others in the library balancing accounting equations and the others in their rooms writing papers. But there is this place where the entire AUI community goes: THE SHOP. This small facility of AUI is probably the only place where teachers, students and staff get



to meet. Every AUIer has been to the shop at least once.

I go to the shop daily, and every single time I hope to find something new. If I don't find what I want, the nice thing is that I just need to ask for it. If it is possible to find a provider

with a good price, they bring whatever you need to the shop. This happened with my previous article where to my great pleasure a new selection of AUI t-shirts was available. This is why I thought of writing down some ideas inspired

from your suggestions and my own experience as a shopping addict.

The shop is meant to be a facility for students to live fully the on-campus experience. Then AUIers are supposed to find backpacks, apparel (clothes), housewares and, most important, souvenirs to keep until after graduation. I thought of many approaches to suggest changes to be made so I will depict AUI's fancy shop, what our ideal shop would be like, as AUIers want it to be. // Not to be included

Nothing to Talk About

Alaeddine ZAHRI

Every semester a set of new faces emerge on this AUI campus. These new students are often labeled newcomers and are given a number that corresponds to their new promotion. This semester's newcomers have been assigned the magic number of 071. I am a newcomer myself, which implies that my ID number displays the 071, and therefore this would actually be my first semester at AUI. It may well be true that this semester is my first at AUI; however, it doesn't mean that it is my first semester in a university. Actually, to be more appropriate, I am a transfer student from the U.S., and I will spare you the reasons why I came back- although, I can tell that everyone is asking this question in his or her mind. I am no mind reader, but let's be honest you o a poor job of hiding your curiosity. So, yes I am a new comer but not quite the same as the rest of the newcomers; no offense to you if

you are a freshman, but I am just not one anymore! Looking at AUI from this prospective, I cannot help but compare AUI to an actual American university based in the U.S. or at least to Sun Devil's State University, i.e.

from heavy security presence. Not even about ASU campus store that carried cigarettes for students, who have reached the legal age to buy them. Neither am I going to talk about the fact that when you go to an ASU

total talk about the NO-mandatory class presence for students and yet the attendance was always at its top levels, especially when you reach junior year. Last but not least (of things I chose not to talk about) is the fact that at ASU all students were treated equally unless you are a football player, basketball player, or a cheerleader. After all, we are all here as students who pay their tuition and should all be treated equally as such.

So what am I going to talk about? Well, it is my first semester and the last thing I want is someone on my back for saying such or such a thing that is not politically correct. So I am not really going to talk about anything except you if you can read between the lines then you will know exactly what I am talking about.

P.S. If you don't want to talk about anything, drop me an email at: A.Zahri@ai.ma

Arizona State University, where I was a student, a newcomer if you will.

I am not going to get into the details of how AUI and ASU curricula are flagrantly different, especially the fact that as a Computer Science major in AUI you have to spend (ideally) nearly two years out of four studying general studies courses. Neither am I going to talk about the fact that at ASU we had an open campus with no curfew, where students make their own choices away

restaurant and do not find a fork, a knife, a napkin, or any condiment of your choice, your meal becomes free of charge as a token of apology from the school to you for a service that you paid for and which was supposed to be there. No need



NO-mandatory class presence for students and yet the attendance was always at its top levels,

Exchange Students Clicking Up

Hanae TIMOULALI

Are you thinking about going on an exchange? Yes, then you are probably worrying about the culture in which you want to spend at least three months. Habits, traditions, norms and values of the culture are some of the issues that may concern you. Our University has been welcoming exchange students for many years. Every semester we see new faces on campus. Students from different fellow universities are coming to AUI to spend one or two semesters studying and taking part in our Moroccan culture. This does not go without raising new issues about exchange students and specifically the way they mix or not with the Moroccan ones. In fact, many people think that exchange students tend to form cliques and isolate themselves from the rest of local community. After exploring different points of view, mainly the ones of some exchange students and Dr. Mobasher, the AUI counselor, here is what I came up with as some causes of such exchange isolation phenomenon.

First, exchange students come to orientation day earlier than the Moroccan students. The university usually reserves some days for them to get used to the place and the system. They hang out together and they are received all together in welcoming receptions, which normally gives them some time to know each other and even engage in making new friendships. Another thing that could be the cause of such phenomenon is the language barrier. Even if most Moroccan students at AUI speak and understand English, it is worthy to point out that it is neither their native language nor the first foreign language most learn at primary, secondary

or high school level. Thus, communicating in English is not an innate act for Moroccans. In addition, if you are sick or upset would you choose to speak to someone from your own culture or to a foreigner? I would say that you would like to speak with someone that shares the same culture or at least the same native language as you! You would understand when one of you uses slang language, and you would laugh at some cultural jokes or stories and so on. Thus, you would probably understand why you sometimes do not laugh at something Americans or others laugh at.

Another important point is about the way Moroccan and others differ as far as connections with people are concerned. As Dr. Mobasher said, as an American you could talk to someone in the bus and end the conversation by exchanging phone numbers or emails. This is very common in the American culture! However, when you are a Moroccan there is always the apprehension stage that you have to go through before feeling at ease with people. Americans, as an example, tend to identify themselves as individuals, so they don't have a lot of difficulties bonding with other individuals outside their family cocoon. On the other side Moroccans have a group identity and especially the family one. I am not saying that Americans don't have the sense of family; I am just trying to point out the differences. Try to examine how two Moroccans first make connections and how Americans do. As a Moroccan you would ask questions such as where are you from, are you living in such or such place, what do your dad or mum do as a job, which high school did you go to, in addition to many more questions that refer to the group to which the person belongs. Americans have another way

of doing it. They tend to ask about hobbies, majors, jobs and other characteristics of the individual themselves, not their surroundings.

Dr. Mobasher and I talked about the stress issue. The fact is that when exchange students come to the university, they have expectations at the beginning. Then it turns out



that they have a lot of problems, tasks and so on to perform. Some of them feel homesick; other experience culture shock and many other problems that would certainly affect the students' attitudes and behavior. Dr. Mobasher said that what she would normally do when an exchange student comes to her and complains is that she would probably advise him/her to mix with other exchange students and spend more time with them. She said that when you are with people from your own country and culture you feel more comfortable. This is nothing but normal!

A friend of mine, who interviewed exchange students, gathered different ideas from them about the issue. One interviewee thinks that exchange students are not doing so well as far as interacting with Moroccan students. She thinks that part of the problem is that they have

classes with mostly exchange students. She mentioned the differences in areas of study between Moroccans and international students, which prevent them from having as many classes together. Also, she thinks that if people had more classes with Moroccans, they would meet more people. Another exchange student

communicating in English is not an innate act for Moroccans. In addition, if you are sick or upset would you choose to speak to someone from your own culture or to a foreigner?

has a completely different standpoint. He thinks that there is a very good interaction between exchange students and Moroccan ones. He even thinks that some exchange students "seem to be more interested in gaining friendships with Moroccan students than maintaining them with Western students". Also, he suggested that more student activities with involving them would be very beneficial to encourage more interaction in the community.

When we invoke the issue of exchange students hanging out together we probably have to see the issue from a different standpoint. We should put ourselves in their positions and see if we would be inclined to behave the same as they do, or not. This is a great issue to think about and try to find some solutions to improve the level of cross cultural socialization in our community.

Exchange Student Fasting

Douglas CARRIER

Let me begin by stating that this is an account of my experience and no way represents the experiences or attitudes of any other students. These are my experiences, and mine alone.

Western society provides very little insight to Islamic traditions. I knew coming to Morocco for a year would

offer me the opportunity to try different things and to learn about an unfamiliar culture. In order to completely immerse myself in Moroccan culture, I decided to fast along with the Muslim students during Ramadan. Some people, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, have tried to dissuade me from fasting, expressing sincere concerns about my physical and academic well-being. However, I

feel that this is something I have to do in order to fully understand Moroccan culture.

I have noticed both positive and negative aspects of fasting. First, for someone who isn't used to the experience, it is difficult to sleep at night. There are two reasons for this: eating so late in the evening, and because the Moroccan students become rather rambunctious at night. The second reason is also a ramification of dorm life.

I have gained an appreciation for the amount of devotion and strength required in the fasting process. Brain activity slows due to lack of nutrition, and it has become difficult to maintain focus during class or when I am doing homework. My energy level has dropped during the day, which makes simple tasks more difficult.

In my opinion, the positive aspects of fasting tend to

outweigh the negative, which is why I have resolved to partake in the fast for the entire month. The fast strengthens relationships. There is a sort of comradeship or solidarity within the student body. Students prepare meals and share the 'four with their friends. I have personally encountered the humbling spiritual experience that comes with the will power and devotion of the fast.

This is my first, and possibly my last chance to experience a fast while living in a Muslim country, and it is an opportunity I simply could not pass up. While I can't say that I will ever fast again, I am glad to do it while I am here.



What about Student Performance in Ramadan?

Karima SAADAOU

Ramadan is the ninth and most important month in the Muslim calendar. Fasting is the fourth pillar of Islam. It is considered the most venerated, blessed and spiritually-beneficial month of the Islamic year. Prayers, fasting, charity, and self-accountability are especially stressed at this time; religious observances associated with Ramadan are kept throughout the month. At AUI, Ramadan has a special importance; every year AUI community collaborates to make it special. The restaurant provides Ramadan dishes; the mosque organizes tarawih prayer every day. However, students still find it hard to survive during Ramadan at AUI, and most of them complain about the class timing of Ramadan and that class time should also change in order to meet Ramadan that's why I

asked AUI faculty about student performance during Ramadan; whether or not it affects their performance especially those who have 8 o'clock classes and does the number of absenteeism increase during Ramadan or not?

MR ABDERRAHIM AGNAOU:

As far as my classes are concerned, I didn't notice anything. For the performance, it is good. I don't have 8 o'clock classes; I teach my first class at 10 that's probably why I didn't notice something.

I think that one of the reasons that might be behind students' low performance during Ramadan is that they are partying until early in the morning that's why they can't attend 8 o'clock classes that's may have a negative impact on their performance during Ramadan.



DR NACEUR AMAKHMAKH:

I think that if the course is at 8 it is at 8. If the policy at AUI is not even to reduce the class hours as they are doing in public administration, schools, and universities then if the course is at 8 it should be at 8. They should be no excuses because it is Ramadan classes should start later. I know that if you are good Muslim you are supposed to stay up all night praying but I don't think if students do their work and go to bed early then get up to do the prayer al Fajr then they can still make the class at 8 then after classes they can have a nap. So, that's one



excuse about 8 classes.

In my opinion, there should be more 8 o'clock classes all the time not just in Ramadan because imagine in universities of 11000 or 23000 students and yet they can manage their time without having classes at night without having classes in Saturdays and Sundays AUI with the rate it is going soon we will be teaching Saturdays or till 10 or 11 pm. And that's not feasible.

Ramadan does affect students' performance because students who stay up late at night I don't know what they do praying or having fun it affects their performance in the morning during

classes especially early morning classes. It affects it in such a way that they don't do their work and they say because it is Ramadan, they are always blaming Ramadan. In one of the courses I teach I told students that they shouldn't rely on drugs to get rid of apprehension some people rely on drugs what I mean by drugs for example coffee I need a coffee before I go to class. You should set your self if I am going to do the work I am going to do it. If you smoke don't say because I haven't smoke I can't do the work.

I think absences depend on individual faculty; faculty who threaten students that they will take grades off; students may feel obliged to attend but faculty who are maybe more lenient absences are noticeably higher than in normal days which is really surprising because in Ramadan you have nowhere to go, go to class and work.

MR ROBERT RICHIE:

I am one of the professors who require student to come to class. My position is if the administration believes that 8 o'clock is an inappropriate time then the administration should change that time. As long as the class schedule the administration and the school agreed to is 8 o'clock

I am going to keep that class schedule.

My class is scheduled at 8 o'clock in the morning all the



time. As a professor I prefer early morning classes but when it comes to Ramadan and early morning classes I think that decision should be made by the administration and not by individuals and of course I will follow any the decision the administration makes.

In general no, I don't think it affects it negatively. I think what affects the student's performance is the student's willingness to work with their professor. I think if the class is at 8 o'clock you should come to class at 8 o'clock and be there. My experience with Ramadan has been very good in term of the students coming to class. I don't see them any more or less tired then they are at 8 o'clock at any other time.

MS BIRUTE RICHARDSON:

I remember a student of mine was sitting on the stairs here

I guess it was the second day of Ramadan his head is down I said Hamza what's the matter? He said this is very hard I didn't smoke all day, I didn't eat all day, I didn't drink all day, it is not good not comme sicomme ca. But now, I think that they become accustomed it seems fine it is hard at the beginning of Ramadan and at the end of Ramadan I noticed that students are



tired of the month and they are looking forward to be finished so they are not so happy. The other nice thing is that in my classes they don't complain I don't see them say "oh it is hard I can't do this" they never said "I don't get my work done because of Ramadan" no I never heard that I think young girls would say that but our students are fine.

No absences; they neither complain, they neither make excuses, nor they are absent during classes, we almost never talk about it except that couple of days with Hamza.

Well I think that the Prophet Mohammed would have wanted you to have faith and have to live your life. Luckily the climate here in Ifrane is fine you're lucky imagine in Meknes it is very hot when I was in Oman those students really they could work until 1pm and then it is thirst and the climate was very hot. I have done fasting then at 5 my mouth is all like cotton. What's surprise me is those Moroccan girls who eat in the restaurant during Ramadan I think people who do not fast will never eat in public.

MR MOHAMED EL BACHRAOUI:

In my Multivariable class, they have no problem because they have class at 1pm. My other section at 8am I don't see any problem I have 7 students and they are doing fine I didn't notice any change during Ramadan the performance is OK.



In general, I can't see any difference so far.

CARTOON OF THE ISSUE



General Knowledge pays off

Ismail BADRAOUI

Know for its numerous activities, the student activities office has organized this semester a competition under the name of Miletus which purpose is to evaluate the intellectual side of the students. The 1st round, which took place on Wednesday, October 4th, gathered 35 teams, which tried everything to be one of the lucky and first 8 teams. The scores equality made the organizers pick up 9 teams instead of 8. These teams are GOOGLE (23/40), NARUTO (23/40), ILLUMIATI (22/40), FIVESTAR (22/40), PLUGGED (21/40), WIKIPEDIA (21/40), H2I (20/40), THE FOG (20/40), THE BASE (20/40). The 2nd round took place in building 17 according to the following schedule:

1st Show: Thursday, November 2nd starting 9 p.m. GOOGLE, FIVESTAR and H2I

2nd show: Thursday, Nov

PLUGGED and THE FOG

3rd show: Monday, Nov 20th. ILLUMINATI, WIKIPEDIA and THE BASE.

The 1st show saw the quali-



The winning team getting its IPaq from Dr Belfekih

9th starting 9 p.m. NARUTO, fication of GOOGLE, while the

second and third one saw the qualification of PLUGGED and ILLUMINATI. The final show, which took place on Thursday, November 30th, gathered the 3 previous teams. PLUGGED was eliminated from the 1st round and let GOOGLE and ILLUMINATI fight for the 1st place. The 2 teams were once first once second, but at the end ILLUMINATI was the champion. The dean of student's affairs was presents that night and gave the prizes to the winners. A certificate of participation was distributed to the 9 pre-selected teams, and the team FIVESTAR was elected as the unlucky one according to the audience. Also a tombola was organized, and the three winners won a MP4 player.

Speaking & Debating for a living

Sarah Cherrabi EL ALAOUI

I simply felt proud when I had the chance to represent my beloved country in London in the International Public Speaking Competition organized by the ESN, English Speaking Union. Before telling more details about that wonderful special trip to London I would like to advise all those people, under the age of 21, with talent in public speaking, to participate in this competition, because it is really worth it. Earlier, there had been the first local competition that only a few AUI students came to see, and I was selected along with Dounia Kchiere. Then both of us had to get prepared for the National Championship, from which I was selected with Nisrine, a participant from Tangier, to represent Morocco in London.

It is definitely possible to spend spring vacation in London, but representing a country is such an amazing different feel-



ing. Before going I tried to get as much information as I could from last year AUI's winner, Rita Lahlou. Once in Heathrow I went to the hotel by underground which is not usually recommended for new people in the city but it was a lot cheaper than a cab so I definitely chose it. Well, I would love to continue telling you the details of my trip but I think you would get bored reading ordinary things about a girl's trip to London for a com-

petition.

The interesting part about the trip is not only the competition itself but also meeting with other delegates from many countries of the world. I made friends from different countries and I learned a lot about new cultures and traditions. As for the competition, I'll remind you of the rules in case you aren't aware of them. Each participant has to prepare a speech of five minutes that is related to the

subject chosen by the English Speaking Union, and this year's subject was, "Mapping the Global Future." My subject was related to volunteering because I believe that civil society can do a lot for a state; I believe that the government cannot do everything, so it absolutely needs the work of the civil society.

When I delivered my speech the day of the competition people liked it and one of the judges was even applauding, but unfortunately, I did not win. When the first round was done, the Cultural Attaché from the Moroccan embassy was there and came to congratulate me for my speech and my spontaneity. It was an excellent thing to have somebody from the same country to encourage me at that moment. Another thing that I found interesting was the titles of other delegates' speeches. There were titles like, "Where Does Your T-shirt Come From?", or, "Let's Paint the World in Green",

“The United Nations of Innovation” or simply “Hunger” or “Starvation.” This last one was the winner: a Russian delivered a good speech about starvation in the world. There were some really weird speeches like the one about fashion and unifying people, where the delegate from the Netherlands believed that through fashion there can be a connection between people around the world. However, he seemed blocked when he was asked about those who cannot afford being in fashion.

There was another interesting speech delivered by a delegate from Chili in which he divided the future world into four poles: the American, the European, the Middle Eastern and the Asian. After he finished and question time came, I stood up and asked him, “What about Africa?” and he answered, “Unfortunately, I do not see any future for Africa.” I guess this answer

is one of the reasons why he did not win.

Before doing the competition, all the delegates had to go everyday to the English Speaking Union building to work on related fields. We all visited the House of Commons and got the chance to assist to one of the senators meetings. After this visit, we created a smaller, fictional parliament where we had to discuss a political issue about an imaginary country.

On Friday, we all said goodbye to each other because each group had to do a home stay in different London suburbs. With my group I traveled to Manningtree from Liverpool station. A very nice English woman was very welcoming and happy to have two girls from Morocco. In this beautiful village, I was invited to many dinners where I was more than happy to talk about my country. I remember when a gentleman and his wife asked

areally funny and strange question, asking in a really spontaneous way: “So, you’re going to meet the leader of your country once back home, aren’t you? I answered, “You mean the king?” and they said, “Well, yes,” and then I laughed and said, “Actually it is not that easy.” They then told me about their story and actually that gentleman wrote a book and wanted the queen to read it and he waited until she came to her palace in the region and he gave it to the guard at her gate and she sent a thank you letter to him after reading his book.

When I won the national competition at AUI and was asked to say something, I only said thank you to my coaches and said that I simply wanted to make my country proud and my family proud.

I also warmly thank Dr. Bouziane and Dr. Kalpakian who helped me a lot to make

my speech better and be self confident. I express gratitude to the Moroccan English Speaking Union and its chairwoman Mrs. Ayoubi who financed the trip, and I cordially thank Mrs. Belghazi from the British Embassy who was very helpful. By the way, for future participants, the trip is free: you receive your plane ticket, hotel stay and even 300£ pocket money. I’m telling you, it’s worth it.

The trip to London was excellent and I felt very proud to represent Morocco, my beloved nation. Unfortunately, once back here, nobody seemed to care about hearing how it had been, and nobody considered that representing Morocco in London was enough to be mentioned during the graduation ceremony. Anyway, thank you to all those who supported me and believed in my modest talent.

ACM Regional Competition

AUI STILL HAS A LOT TO PROVE

Karima SAADAOU

AUI organized one of the biggest events ever; THE 2006 ACM ARAB & NORTH AFRICA PROGRAMMING CONTEST which was sponsored by IBM from 30th November till 2nd December.

The contest gathers students from colleges and universities in the MENA region. Then regional contests on six continents lead to THE ACM PROGRAMMING CONTEST WORLD FINALS to compete for top-notch rights and scholarships.”

There had been many contestants from different Arab countries; the winners were from Arab Academy for Science and technology in Alexandria, Egypt. AUI participated with three teams who were ranked 16 among very very



competitiveteams.After



the competition, we tried to get the contestants’ opinion about the level of the competition and about the event’s organi-

zation as a whole.

Mhammdi Mohammed Amine, AUI:

It was fun anyway, this is a game. We could have done much but we did our best. I found that the level was hard; we were always disappointed because of wrong answers.

Seyed Rouzbeh Ghirizadeh from University Of Wollongong in Dubai

This year contest was an easy contest but the problems were very tricky the organizing was very good and almost on time and I looking forward to be here in Morocco again thank you for al akhawayn university everything was good.

Mr. Abid, AUI:

First of all the university was successful in



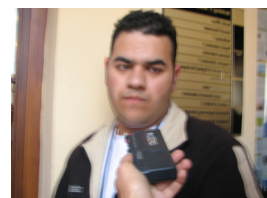
Seyed Rouzbeh Ghirizadeh



Lama Mazen Jamal



Tamer Al-Aqrabawi



leading the event till the end this is the important thing. Concerning our results, we were not expecting that but I think we learnt from this ex-

perience and I hope next year we will do much better in chaalah.

Eissa Ebrahim, Etisalat University College, Sharjah:

First of all I would like to thank Al Akhawayn University for their hospitality and their support organizing beginning from Thursday with the transportation it is a big event there were a lot of efforts to make it a successful event. In terms of the competition it is my first time to be an ACM competition it is good to see other people from other universities who share the same concepts and work in the same major in terms of computer engineering or computer science I like morocco it is the first time in morocco I think that the university is far

away we spent 20 hours to get here try to be punctuate and stick to the time and do something about this weather

Kuwait University:

First of all ifrane is really nice morocco in general we liked it. This is my first time in morocco me and my friends people are so sweet we like them we are coming from Kwait University two teams team of guys and team of girls thank you for this opportunity the organization is good but it needs to be a little bit more organized but it is good

weliked:beingontimewedidn't enterthehallontimebutgenerally it is a nice trip it is the trip of my life.

Team nickname: Serious Dummies from Amman Al-Ahliya Univerity:

We had a problem with the PC and we received another one after 30 minutes, they make us loose more time. In 2 hours we solved 2 problems but because of technical problems they made us loose 45 minutes on bringing a new pc and trying to make it work again. In 2 hours

wesolved 3 problems and more than 45 we are the first team that got the first correct problem. The transportaion is ok but the fees are bad compared with last year in Kwait everything was so bad.

The winners, Arab Academy for Science and Technology:

I am from Arab Academy from Egypt Alexandria this the third time I participate in ACM contest this is the first time I enjoyed it really because we are hopefully the best and we are

going to japan for the international the problems are faily easy not similar to the last three years but faitly easy we did a good job and other teams are competitive and hamdoulah.

This year if I can talk honestly it is not like last year but it is good it is a new place to go and new people to see it is all good, thank you very much.

Find a Mentor in the Academy of Achievement

Nazih EL BEZZARI

I benefited from an exciting program, and I believe that the 2006 International Achievement is one of the most enduring and memorable experience of my life.

Without greater understanding between nations, there can be no lasting peace, and this kind of intellectual discourse between individual leaders, both present and future, is essential to establishing such understanding.

The Academy of Achievement is like no other organization in the world. For more than 40 years, this unique non profit foundation has sparked the imagination of students across America and around the globe by bringing them into direct personal contact with the greatest thinkers and achievers of the age.

Since 1961, these generation-spanning forums have outstanding students meet one-on-one with Nobel Prize winners.

The Academy of Achievement had invited men and women of exceptional accomplishment to share their wisdom and experience with more than 150 outstanding graduate students from over 40 countries in the disciplines of law, medicine,

genetics, computer, engineering, economics, finance, international relations, diplomacy, public policy and social entrepreneurship.

The student delegates for the summit were selected from the prestigious international exchange programs including the Catherine B. Reynolds Fellows, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Scholarship program, the White House Fellows, Marshall, Fulbright scholarship programs, etc.

Additional student delegates were designed by the faculty of leading institutions around the world including Harvard, Yale Law School, Fletcher School of Business, Oxford, Cambridge, Johns Hopkins University, Stanford, HEC Paris, and of course Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane ...

During the four-day International Achievement Summit, we joined distinguished artists, scientists, statesman and leaders of industry in an extraordinary series of symposia and round table discussions.

We had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues of concern with eminent adult achievers in diverse fields of endeavor.

Academy program events

took place at the 20th Century Fox studios, Spago, the Los Angeles Country Museum of Art and the J. Paul Getty Museum. The International Achievement Summit culminated with the Banquet of the Golden Plate and the Introduction Ceremony in the Regent Beverly Wilshire hotel, Beverly Hills.

2006's gathering, hosted by the Catherine. B Reynolds Foundation, George Lucas and Steven Spielberg, takes on special significance in light of current world events. The sight of students of various lands and faiths coming together to enter into meaningful, reasoned dialogue with distinguished leaders in many fields, is surely a sign of hope for the future.

Each year, men and women of exceptional accomplishment in the sciences, professions, business, industry, arts, literature, sports, entertainment, and public service are acclaimed, not as winners, but as "representatives of the many who excel". This year's Golden Plate Award was composed from:

- George Lucas: creator of "star Wars"
- Steven Spielberg: Master filmmaker
- Lee R. Raymond: Chairman of the board Exxon Mobil Corporation

- Carl H. Lindner: Chairman of the board American Financial Corporation

- Carlos Ghosn: President and Chief Executive Officer Nissan Motor Company, Ltd

- His majesty King Abdullah II: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

- Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

- Sergy Brin: Co-Founder Google Inc.

- Ehud Barak: 10th Prime minister of Israel.

- William J. Clinton: 42nd president of the United States.

- Recep Tayyip Erdogan: prime minister of Turkey.

- More than 20 Nobel prize winners from different field and areas

During this four-day event, I had the opportunity to speak with many celebrities and share the dinner table with famous artists and scientists. I also established contacts and friendships with many people. Some of them are planning to visit Morocco... this summit pushed me to change my perceptions and beliefs about many things in the contemporary world.

I benefited from an exciting program, and I believe that the 2006 International Achievement is one of the most enduring and memorable experience of my life.

Think about it ... it could have been you

Robert BURGESS
CAD faculty

On Monday July 3rd 2006, I was diagnosed with meningioma, a type of primary brain tumor. This is my story.

I have spent the last two months thinking about my tumor. I find that I am not all that interested in why it happened. It just did. What I want to do is learn from the experience and turn it into a positive event in my life. I would like to tell you the story because it has taught me a lesson that I think we can all learn from. This story is not that unique. Instead, it reflects the kinds of issues that all people must deal with in the course of their lives. This experience has opened my eyes to some of my own failings but also to some shining examples of excellence in the people and institutions around me.

Identity is a concept that comes up in courses taught at Al Akhawayn University (AUI) in the Center for Academic Development (CAD). The course SSK1205 (Interpersonal Skills and Social Interaction) introduces some of the fundamental elements that contribute to effective interpersonal communication, and much of what goes into communication relies on the self and self-concept. It is a course that I haven't taught nor taken. With perfect hindsight I see this as a mistake. Identity is who you believe you are, and there is often a disconnect between how you see yourself and how others see you. Part of my identity is my wife Kate and who I believe she is. We have been married almost 20 years. Much of our strength is in our bond with common beliefs and interests.

When we started at AUI, the CAD was in its first semesters and in our usual manner we went to work to build the curriculum. When I took over the position as Director of the Office of International Programs

we began to make some real progress in building the necessary processes and procedures to develop a successful program. The results can be seen in this Fall intake where we achieved a record number of students, both incoming and outgoing, in our core exchange programs. But my health was collapsing.

My tumor was initially diagnosed as a slow growing (type I) meningioma, the most common brain tumor for a 49 year old man. However, my neurosurgeon, Dr. Mustapha El Azouzi, made it clear that the field of medicine is still not an exact science and that the diagnosis could change. My tumor was very large, and threatened the motor strip and speech cores of my brain. It had reached crisis proportions. The neurosurgeon, after the first surgery, told me I had been just weeks from paralysis.

Meningioma is a sneaky tumor. The neurosurgeon tells me that it had been growing in my brain lining for many years. The symptoms of this tumor are headache, weakness on one side, seizures, personality and behavioral changes and confusion. I did not recognize the symptoms in myself, or I denied them, until the growth had reached a crisis point. I never considered that my life was threatened. Death or disability was not a concept that needed to be dealt with by a healthy forty-nine year old man. The tumor nearly destroyed my life because I was lacking in understanding of myself. I KNEW I was healthy, I KNEW I was strong, I KNEW I could handle the problem by myself and with Kate's support. Moreover, this has not been a good year for my family with a father in declining health and a couple of other medical scares.

What I did was fairly typical. I attributed my physical problem to stress and anxiety.

However, by March, I began to feel that I was not able to maintain my normal standard of work and workload. I looked for help from Kate, the AUI Administration and the AUI medical team. I talked with Dr. Belfekih and Dr. Ouaouicha about reducing my workload and refocusing on one area. I finally decided that CAD was my best choice as this had always been my core area of aca-



dem interest. By this time, I was beginning to realize that there was a real problem. I just didn't understand what it was. I then took the step of talking with the counselor, Dr. Mobasher, about what I was experiencing. She felt that my explanation of it was plausible but she did not let me stop there. She recommended seeing one of the doctors. I went to the clinic and saw Dr. Hicham El Berri. Dr. El Berri agreed that my symptoms might be related to stress but again he would not let me stop. He made an appointment with the psychiatrist, Dr. Jalal Toufiq. Dr. Toufiq diagnosed an atypical reaction to anxiety, but first he recommended a CT scan that he prescribed in Fes. The CT scan revealed the tumor and Dr. Amezian sat me down and explained that from what she had seen so far it was meningioma. I called Dr. Mobasher to tell her the results and asked her to go and sit with Kate and ex-

plain the situation. We went to Rabat that afternoon met with Dr. El Azouzi and had an MRI that evening. We were asked to see Dr. El Azouzi on Tuesday morning at 7:00. When he suggested that he would be available to fly to Canada with me to seek the necessary medical care I realized the gravity of the situation. Kate and I decided then that I could do no better in the world than with Dr. El Azouzi. I still believe this was the right decision.

On Wednesday July 5, I went into surgery in the hands of Dr. El Azouzi, and his team. Kate came into the operating room with me while Dr. Belfekih, waited in the clinic to provide support. The real excellence is with the surgical team in their depth of knowledge, in their skills of analysis and evaluation in a very delicate environment, and in their technical abilities. The problem was that the tumor was located in areas that could cause permanent physical problems including paralysis. He decided to be cautious and resolve the immediate crisis.

Kate and I went to Portugal and Spain to recuperate during the summer break. On September 1, I went in for a follow-up CT scan to allow the neurosurgeon to assess the situation. I was feeling fine but the tumor had become a type II, aggressive growth tumor. Even though I had no symptoms, it was again threatening my speech and motor core. The doctor said that this time the tumor had to be removed completely. He explained that it was aggressive, and so we had to be aggressive in response. He warned me that there was a possibility of temporary or even permanent damage. The surgery was again successful and the tumor was completely removed. I have suffered no ill effects and the prognosis is full recovery.

I have now personally tested medical systems with family

health care in Canada, treatment for malaria in Tanzania, treatment for rabies and annual health checks in Thailand, surgery in Singapore and two surgeries for brain tumor in Morocco. Having comparison shopped in five medical systems I believe the treatment I received through the medical team at AUI, the neurosurgeon Dr. El Azouzi, and the Clinique in Rabat were all world class. This is what we mean when we talk about excellence in your studies at AUI. This is what we want you to aspire to and what you are all capable of achieving. Use the incredible resources and opportunities that have been made

available to you and make a difference for your country.

My plea to you is twofold. Please get to understand yourself, physically, mentally and emotionally. AUI is a good place to begin to do this. Don't make my mistake. If something doesn't seem right it probably isn't. Get help earlier than I did; talk to the counselor; talk to the psychiatrist; talk to the doctors. My biggest lesson has been that people are incredibly understanding and supportive. Make proper use of the medical staff at AUI. They have proved themselves forever in my eyes

Do not abuse these professionals. Self inflicted wounds

such as excesses at Les Tilleuils of an evening and then queuing for excused absences is not responsible behavior. For you international students, eating in unhygienic conditions and stuffing yourself up with self-prescribed doses of immodium is not a responsible behavior. Allowing yourself to become dehydrated is not a responsible behavior. These doctors and nurses deserve your respect. Someone might really need their help today. I really hope not, but you might need their help tomorrow. I just want them to be available to those in the community who really need them when they need them.

I would like to thank this institution and the people who work in it for their support during this unexpected ordeal. I really thank everyone but there has been an incredible response from the AUI administration, the medical team, and my colleagues in CAD, and OIP and of course our friends. I realized that I am proud that Kate and I have friends across the world. Our Buddhist friends prayed to Lord Buddha while our Muslim and Christian friends prayed to God for our health and well-being. People are the same all around the world. Thank you.

Quotations of the Issue

A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.

HERM ALBRIGHT

A strong positive mental attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug.

PATRICIA NEAL

Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of

their lives.

WILLIAM JAMES

The secret of joy in work is contained in one word - excellence. To know how to do something well is to enjoy it.

PEARL BUCK

It's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL.

To be mature means to face, and not evade, every fresh crisis that comes.

Fritz Kunkel

Punctuality is the virtue of the bored.

Evelyn Waugh

As you put into practice the qualities of patience, punctuality, sincerity, and solicitude, you will have a better opinion of the world around you.

Grenville Kleiser

Modesty: the gentle art of enhancing your charm by pretending not to be aware of it.

Oliver Herford

Friends are helpful not only because they will listen to us, but because they will laugh at us; Through them we learn a little objectivity, a little modesty, a little courtesy; We learn the rules of life and become better players of the game.

Will Durant

Word Game

To play this game, you must get as close as possible to the target number using the basic arithmetic operations and some or all of the smaller numbers.

Target	Numbers
647	9 6 9 7 2 5
764	4 5 7 4 2 7
942	7 5 2 5 1 10 5 1
466	2 6 10 3 10 9
227	6 9 9 1 1 8

1. A building dedicated to religious ceremonies or worship or Ed.d of Dr. Belfekih.
2. University third year student classification.
3. Teacher of EGR 2302 and FIN 3302.
4. LGAMILA on campus.
5. Spouse of Bill Clinton- Office in bldg 10.
6. Self Access Center- Club Med.

Find a word using the letters in shadowed boxes to find the first Name of AUI counselor:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							

Aquarius (January 21 – February 18):
The break is over! AUI is calling. Pack up and don't forget your gloves.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20):
If you live in building 38, you should buy ice skates.

Aries (March 21 – April 19):
Beware April's fool. You do actually have a midterm.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20):
It is final's week. You are probably seeing red where it's not.

Gemini (May 21 – June 21):
The postman might be bringing bad news! Hang around your mailbox!

Cancer (June 22 – July 22):
That person you met yesterday at the beach is not your soul mate!

Leo (July 23 – August 22):
Eat as much as you can. AUI restaurant is waiting for you!

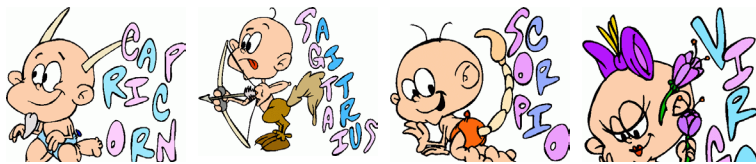
Virgo (August 23 – September 22):
If you can find meat in the restaurant's harira, you have earned a scholarship!

Libra (September 23 – October 22):
Ramadan is over. Get ready for the parties.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21):
Remember those parties? That's why you got an F on your midterm!

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21):
Final's week! Time to compensate for the Fs in your midterm!

Capricorn (December 21-January 20):
Ouff!! Done with the finals... Is the postman here?



In the Dark...



In this dark, I remember you
The shape of your face
Then I turn on the light
And sit down next to the bed
And think
Then I go and grab a glass
A glass of water
Drink it and try to sleep
Get up again
And take off my socks
Hold my kitty tightly
And cry
Then I go back to bed
And fall asleep
Till tomorrow and I wake up
With the sun light in my eyes
And the kitty in my arms
Wearing my Gray shorts and my white shirt
I go downstairs,
Jump in the pool
And then get ready to go
Drive my beetle and listen to music
Without knowing where to go
Or what to do,
Just drive
No passion for shopping or clubbing
No desire of talking or laughing
Just drive peacefully
And drink Starbucks coffee
Drive back home
And take a shower, a cold one
And cry,
Feel the water purifying me
And cry,
It makes no difference
When you cry in the shower

Indigènes

Alaeddine ZAHRI

The newest release of the Moroccan comedian superstar, Jamal Debbouz, is surprisingly not a comedy this time. The movie, "Indigènes", is the tale of four North African soldiers fighting in the frontlines of World War Two under the French flag against the Nazi regime. Indigènes, which was directed by the talented Algerian director (insert name here), was shot in Morocco and rumors say that it was partially financed by the king himself. "Indigènes" is a dramatic movie with a lot of raw scenes representing the time of

war, but it focuses mainly on the struggle of the North African and sub-Saharan soldiers for



equal rights with their French comrades. Promotion quotas,

no permissions to visit family, lesser wages, and even privation of certain kinds of food, were some of the discriminations indigenous soldiers had to struggle against in the movie. We are far from the French slogan of "liberty, fraternity, and equality". Liberty of France, and later of their respective countries, is what the indigenous soldiers were fighting for and got. Fraternity and equality are the French promises to these soldiers that disappointedly (to say the least) never came to realization. In the context of the new wave of racism in France, this movie comes as a reminder

of what kind of sacrifices these minorities have given to France as a state. These sacrifices, the movie stresses, make these soldiers just as French as any other "native French". As private first class Ali (played by Jamal Debbouz) said in one of the scenes of the movie, "if I liberate a country, it's my country too." Indigènes is a must see movie, it is a great piece of history as well as a great piece of movie making. Oh and I should add, if you are the sensitive type don't forget to take with you a box of tissues ... you just might need it.

a Sculptor: Mr Touires' Confessions

Lamy BENZIANE

On the occasion of the recent AUI Publication Day, the Publications Office organized an exposition of the sculptor, Said Touires, under the theme of "Freedom and Censorship". AUI News had the privilege to conduct this interview with him asking about his art, his trips all over the world, and his life.

Q: What do you think about the sculpture in Morocco?

A: In Morocco the sculpture exists in two sorts: Abstract and Figurative. For the first one it can be done using marble, bronze, clay, or a mixture between two of these elements. The second one is not very widespread because some people think that is forbidden by Islam to do it: in other words, it is "haram", but it is not. As far as I am concerned, I do an abstract work using clay; however, I am thinking of using the bronze for my next works since with them (my works) I can travel to Agadir, to the Sahara without being afraid to break them.

Q: What can you tell us about Said Touires the sculptor?

A: I was born in 1956 in Benslimane. I traveled a lot to expose my work. I went to the USA, and I stayed there for two years. I traveled through most of Europe and I visited Israel four times. In each city I visited, I drew portrait of people. I can cite: Paris, Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv, London, Roma, Madrid, many Moroccan cities and Al



Akhawayn of course.

Q: How do AUI students react to your exposition?

A: Many students came and saw my works. I approached some of them to ask for their opinions about the exposition. They said that they liked it. However, I leave you this privilege as organizer (Publications) to ask for that since I believe that the success of this exposition will reflect your hard work to organize it.

Q: What do you think about the organization of the Publication Day??

A: I do appreciate the organization of the Publication Day especially since I notice that in AUI the clubs are doing a great job to give a good idea about the university.

Q: As you said before, you visited Israel four times. What can you tell us about these visits?

A: I think that you have already known that in Israel a lot of Jews still conserve their Moroccan nationality, and if

some problems appeared in the Middle East, they came back to their country: Morocco. Besides, Berbers and Jews represent the first inhabitants of Morocco. I claim loudly that Jews are our brothers.

Q: We heard, Mr. Touires, that you practice sports. How do you manage both of your hobbies: Sport and Sculpture??

A: Before becoming a sculptor, I was a Sport teacher. However, I enjoy art but not any art, only intelligent ones. I enjoy art that consists of creativity not of just drawing portraits of people and selling them after. Two types of people that practice art can be seen: the ones that know the techniques and apply them and others that reflect in their art the sadness and problems of people.

At the end of the interview, Mr. Touires explained to us the sense of the painting that he gave to Student Activities on the occasion of the Publication Day. The balloon represents the freedom of expression that wants to fly far from the censors, symbolized by hands that want to imprison it (freedom).

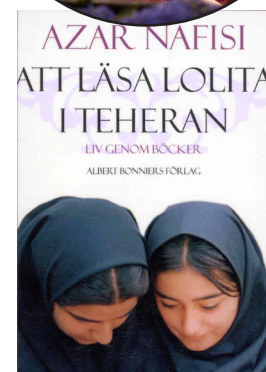
Lolita read in Iran

Alaedine ZAHRI

Reading Lolita in Tehran, a memoir by Azar Nafisi, the daughter of a former charismatic mayor of pre-revolutionary Tehran and of a woman who won a seat in Parliament in 1963, tells the story of a private class she used to teach in Tehran after she had resigned from the University of Tehran years earlier for refusing to wear the veil. The secret class grouped seven young girls from different backgrounds but who had a common

denominator, i.e. living under the laws and potential humiliation of the Islamic Republic. The class taught literature, banned literature that is. Books such as Vladimir Nobokov's *Lolita* were in the course curriculum. There is an irony about that especially since the legal marriage age for girls in Iran is 9 years old. And in that sense the youngest girl of the group cleverly paraphrased the famous opening sentence of Henry James's *Daisy Miller* by saying, "It is a truth universally

acknowledged that a Muslim man, regardless of his fortune, must be in want of a nine-year-old virgin wife." However the book doesn't only give you an insight on post-revolution Iran; it is also a space where interesting literary analysis of books such as *The Great Gatsby* and *Pride and Prejudice* was given by Azar Nafisi. *Reading Lolita in Tehran* is a must read for literature and human experience lovers.



New Soccer Field in AUI

Taha EL HAJJI

Due to the increase of pressure on the soccer field, a request was approved by the president, the vice president, and the dean to build a new one.

The new soccer field being built near building 12 is 90 M long and 45 M wide, the smallest dimension of an official soccer field according to FIFA regulations. It will be devoted to free practice and special trainings whereas the first one

will be devoted to matches and trainings.



The project doesn't include only the new soccer field but also upgrading the maintenance equipments, purchasing specialised mowing machines, and hiring a full time gardener in charge of maintaining the soccer fields.

Good news: 70% of the work on the new soccer field is already done, and by the end of the spring semester the remaining 30% will have been finished.

Ramadan indoor Soccer Tournament

It is eleven o'clock. The AUI gymnasium is illuminated. You can see people going in mass to attend one of the major entertaining events of this holy month: The Ramadan Soccer Tournament. In fact, knowing the importance of sports, especially soccer, and its popularity among AUI students, the gymnasium staff has decided that this will become a habit to hold this tournament in Ramadan. This year, the number of teams participating was 24 which is a net progress comparing to the other years; this can be explained by the massive participation of newcomers and also by the growing popularity of this contest. Concerning the organizational branch of the competition, it was composed of two of our fellow students, namely Youssef Ztot and Nabil Oumimoun who were supervised by Mr. Adil Kamane. They all devoted a great effort to make this event take place in the best conditions. Regarding the level of the tournament, one can undeniably state that some teams participated just to have fun and make new friends whereas some others were there to win. In addition, a fair play atmosphere kept by all the players made them really enjoy games and impress supporters with great football tricks. However, and as every year, the only drawback was the level of referees. In fact, the committee of organization came up with an innovative idea of letting each member of one team be the referee of a match opposing two other teams; this was really creative but referees were, unfortunately, not always au rendez vous. After two weeks of competition, the first round ended and we started to have some quite impressive matches between teams that have nothing in mind, just win. The Gymnasium was full of supporters

screaming names of players that had become familiar to them. Great goals, amazing football tricks and a great sense of fair play were the main components of this second round. This tournament ended on the 19th October by the victory of a team of newcomers known as "footmate".



Here is the list of the participants in this Ramadan Soccer Tournament with some results from the second round.

GROUPE A

Real La3yaka, Manshaft, Alamal, Samtoulé's

team, Roomates & El achrare

GROUPE B

unionsportifoujda, footmate, england, bilal team, jaja team & Zonzaje

GROUPE C

khikhiz, the raiders, 3adz, hurricane, all stars & Ittihad houribga

GROUPE D

Anonymous, starter, volcano, fcboofboof, l3fu & inchallah

The teams that reached the second round: Real La3yaka, Manshaft, USO, Footmate, Khikhiz, Raiders, Anonymous and Starter.

The main results of this second round were:

Quarter finals:

Real la3yaka vs Raiders = 7/1
 Manshaft vs Khikhiz = 3/3 (2/3 penalties)
 Starter vs USO = ... (3/1 penalties)
 Anonymous vs Footmate = 2/2 (7/8 penalties)

Semi-Finals:

Real La3yaka vs Footmate = 4/5
 Khikhiz vs Starter = 2/2 (3/4 penalties)

Final: Starter vs Footmate = 4/8