



Busy semester for the SBA and the AUI Finance Club



This fall semester 2007, a number of important conferences were hosted by the School of Business Administration and the Finance Club. *(continued on page 5)*

Successful Opera closes the German Day



Members of AUI's German Club were delighted to see Auditorium 17 full of students who were eager to see the German opera concert they had organized for 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 22. *(continued on page 3)*

Local Programming Contest at AUI



The Oct. 29 programming contest drew a surprising number of Al Akhawayn University students to the Building 5 computer lab. *(continued on page 4)*




Five scholars from the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) gave a series of lectures at the boardroom of Al Akhawayn University on Wed., Oct. 17 and Tuesday, Nov. 20, starting from 9:30 a.m. *(continued on page 2)*

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Idir at Al Akhawayn University

 MOUNA EL MANSOURI

Idir, the famous Algerian singer, offered AUI a spectacular and magnificent concert on Dec. 3. Building 17 registered one of the highest levels of attendance ever.



NASA scientists lecture at Al Akhawayn University

 DOUIEB SALMA

(continued from page 1)

The conference of Oct. 17 featured Dr. Joseph M. Ajello only. Ajello is active in NASA space missions as a co-investigator in mission planning and data analysis of UV observations. Titled "Titan Airglow Spectra from Cassini Ultraviolet Imaging Spectrometer (UVIS) and other Outer Planets Observations", Aiello's lecture focused on the UVIS on Cassini, a spacecraft which reached Titan, one of Saturn's moons, in 2004. Cassini proved that the molecular nitrogen is the major constituent of the Titan's atmosphere.

Under the theme "The Spirit of Exploration", four other scholars

gave presentations on Nov. 20.

Mr. Ralph White, Award-Winning Cinematographer, Video Camera-man, Editor and Technologist took the audience on a cinematic journey through several of the greatest underwater finds including the Titanic debris and the Volcanic Vents.

Dr. Rosaly Lopes, a Principal Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (NASA's lead center for robotic exploration of the solar system), discussed the contribution of the Galileo and Cassini missions in revealing important mysteries about the evolution of the solar system.

Mr. Kamal Oudrhiri, a Technical Manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion

Laboratory and initiator of this lecture series, explained how the last 50 years of space exploration have inspired greater scientific interest and technological innovation, incited new visions about the universe, and promised other amazing discoveries.

Finally, Dr. Art Hammon, Director of Explorer School program, presented what the NASA is doing to inspire the next generation and initiate them to space exploration.

Naturally, the majority of the audience was from the School of Science and Engineering. However, some interested students and faculty from other schools were also present.



Both students and faculty attended the conferences.

Student Center to open next year

 LAILA ELATIKI ELGUENNOUNI

By the end of August 2008, Building 14 will be available for students' use. The building, which is called Students' Center, is located in the sports area and will consist of two parts.

The first part, which is currently under construction, is the club house. The club house will feature two floors and will include a counter and a cooking area with a new company serving the food. This restaurant is planned to be operational by the beginning of next semester. The introduction of the new company is intended to create competition with the old one, as an attempt to enhance the quality of foods and services.

The second part will consist of two other blocks that are going to be attached to the club house. In these blocks, there will be a

We want students to be independent, free, in a place that is for them

students' lab, a studio room, a club area for student activities, another area to accommodate the student government, and a game room fully equipped with game machines.

The purpose of this project that will ready by August 2008 is to give AUI students a space where they can meet with their friends. As Dr. Cherif Bel Fekih, the vice president of student affairs, said, "We want students to be independent, free, in a place that is for them."

AUI students interested in Imagine Cup

 LEILA JABRANE

Sidi Ali Mae Alainain returned to AUI to give a second presentation on the Imagine Cup 2008 on Nov. 17, starting 3 p.m. in the game room.

For 2008, the challenge is to "imagine a world where technology enables a sustainable environment."

Mae Alainain, an AUI alumni and head manager of the Education Department at Microsoft North Africa, described the Imagine Cup as the world's largest student technology showcase,

a "student Olympics of technology."

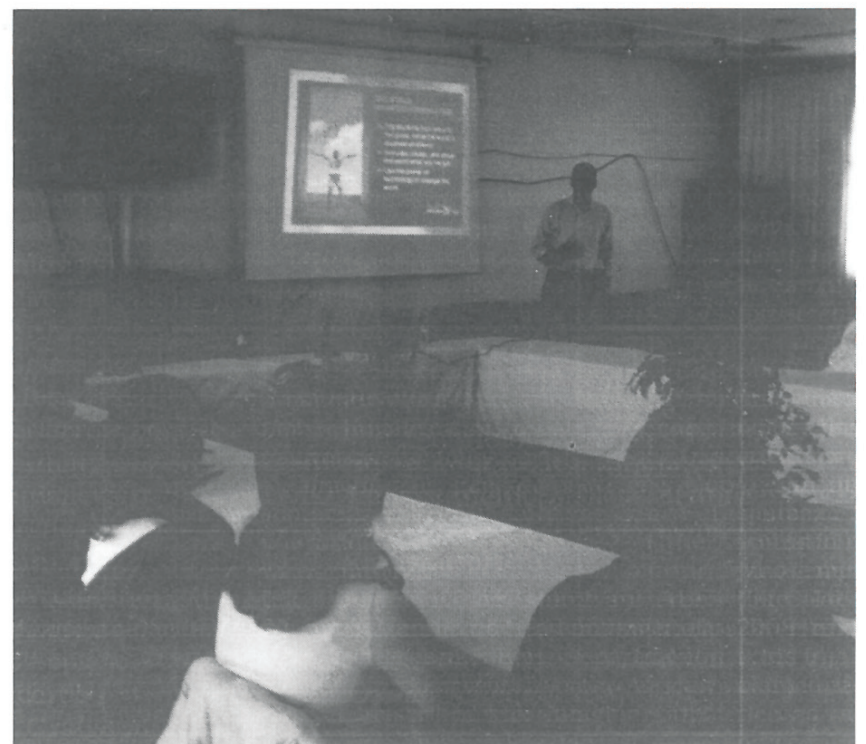
Sponsored by Microsoft, the Imagine Cup invites high school and university students to put their creativity to use in conceiving innovative technological solutions to real-world challenges. For 2008, the challenge is to "imagine a world where technology enables a sustainable environment."

During his recent presentation, Mae Alainain expounded on the competition, whose national rounds are to take place at AUI in March 2008 and final rounds in Paris in August 2008. He explained its different categories, as well as the rules and procedures for participation. He also provided the dead-

lines for the different steps for entering the competition.

Badr Molato, a member of the AUI team who was qualified to the world finals of the third year of the competition and ranked third world wide, was also present. He related his experiences in the Imagine Cup 2005.

"The first competition intended to draw the attention of AUI students on the Imagine Cup competition," said Sara Benbachir, president of the Association for Computing Management known as the ACM Club. "As many students seemed interested and contacted the Club seeking for more information, we thought about organizing this second presentation."



Mae Alainain presenting key elements of each category.

Japanese Movies captivate AUI students

MOUNA EL MANSOURI

The Al Akhawayn University Japanese Club treated fans of Japanese culture to two Japanese movies at 8 p.m. Oct. 29 and Nov. 1 in auditorium 4.

The movies presented, "Death Note" and "Death Note: the Last Name," are live-action movies adapted from the manga and anime "Death Note," a series that knows a large success within

grows bigger and bigger, the methods used by Kira – the name by which everyone calls Raito (read as "killer" in Japanese) – encounter a strong resistance by the police force all over the world, and especially by L, another young genius who decides to defeat him and prove the rightness of his own perception of justice.



Death Note is the fruit of the collaboration of Tsugumi Ohba (story) & Takeshi Obata (art)

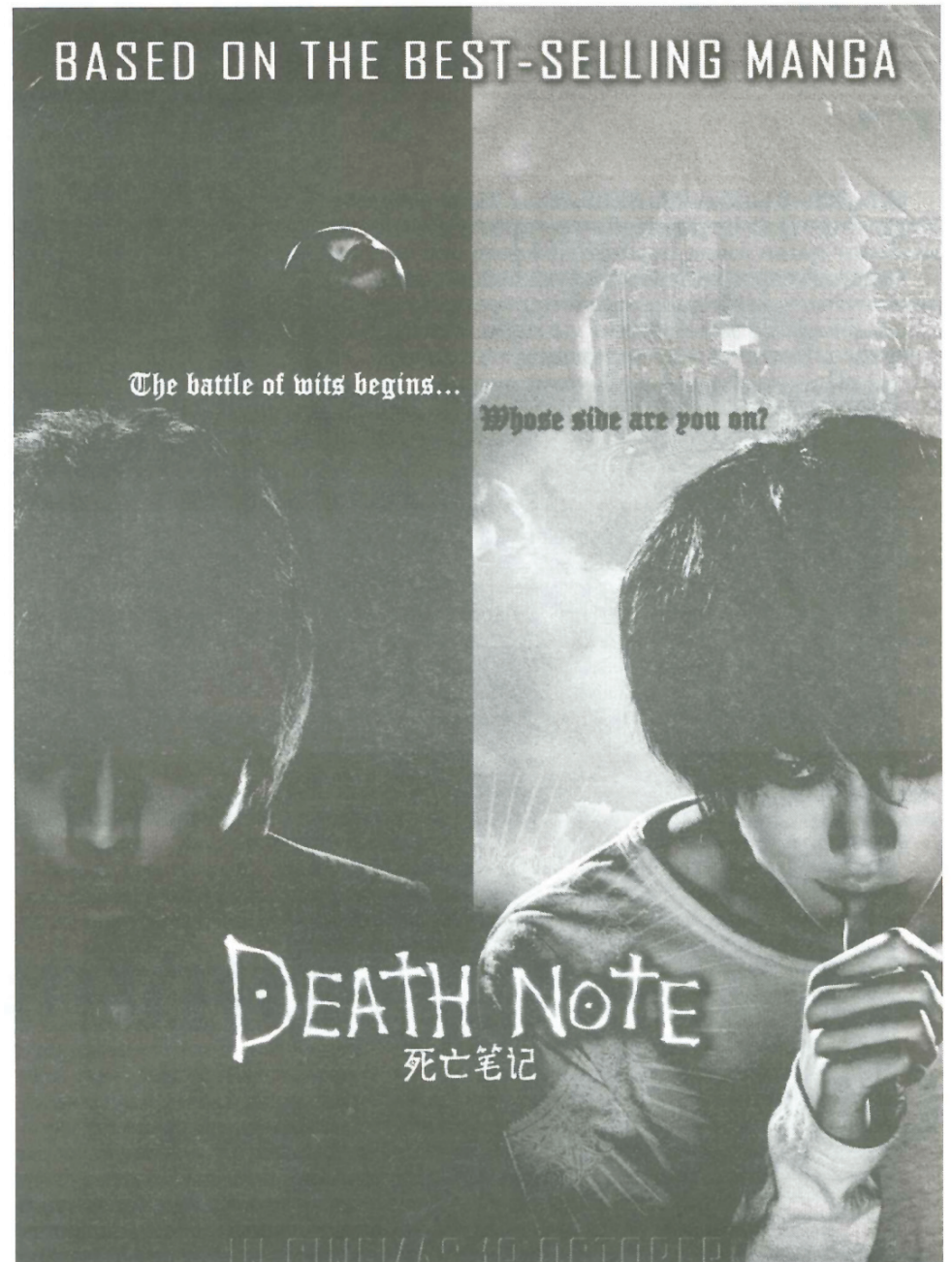
manga (basically, the Japanese word for comics or printed cartoons) fans not only in Japan but all over the world.

The plot revolves around a young and intelligent student in law, Yagami Raito, who picks a "death note," a copybook left by a "shinigami" (a soul reaper) with which he could kill anyone by just writing his or her name on it. Frustrated by the injustice around him, Raito decides to apply his own justice and starts "cleaning up the world from all criminals."

Though his crowds of supporters

"The theme of the original manga and the movies treats one of the most important concepts in our modern society that is justice," said Imad Maouli, a senior member of AUI Japanese Club. "The movies we presented were not only a promotion of Japanese movie art and culture but especially an invitation to reflect about the concept of justice and its implications."

To the surprise of the club members, the movies actually interested more people than expected. At the same time, the club is still holding Japanese



The movie portrayed the two main characters of the first arc of the manga.

classes every Monday and Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. in building 4, and prepar-

ing for other activities promoting the Japanese culture on campus.

Cinema workshop draws small audience

SALMA DOUIEB

One of the youngest Moroccan directors, Wahid El Moutanna, spoke to Al Akhawayn University students in the game room on Wednesday Oct. 23.

During the two-hour workshop presented by the Student Activities Office, El Moutanna talked about his experience of cinema and his interaction with American, European, and Moroccan actors. Students watched and discussed two of his famous short films, "Cadre" and "Les Figurants."

"Despite the low turnout, Mr. El Moutanna promised to come back on December for a theatre workshop," said Brahim Ouzineb, SAO events coor-

dinator.

Wahid El Moutanna was born in Sale in 1981. After getting a diploma from the school of drama (Institut Supérieur d'Art Dramatique) in Rabat, El Moutanna attended the Master Class in Seville in Spain and participated in a training in FEMIS (École Nationale Supérieure des Métiers de l'Image et du Son), a French school which has acquired prestige for its film program. He has also participated in the Avignon International Theater Festival in France. In 2005, he directed several journalistic pieces for the Moroccan Television, as well as his first two short films.



El Moutanna sharing his experience to AUI students.

Halloween celebrated at AUI

LEILA JABRANE

On Oct. 31, the Al Akhawayn University Marketing Club held a Halloween party in the students' game room, from 12 to 5 p.m.

In some respects, the event had little in common with 'traditional' Halloween parties, in which people gather together at night wearing costumes. However, the marketing club maintained other aspects of Halloween such as the music, sweets, and the quintessential Jack o' lantern, which is a pumpkin (a big orange gourd) carved into a scary or silly face.

"This 'party' is not a real celebration of the deaths or something like that," said Hind Rabah, a freshman International Studies student. "It is just an occasion to live it up."

"Besides 'celebrating' Halloween, this party is intended to raise funds for the Club and make people taste American treats such as cookies, brownies and so on," said Kamelia El Marmouke, the president of the Marketing Club.

The marketing operation of the club can be considered a success as students stopped by the game room in large numbers to buy pop corn and cotton candy, even though they cost five times their price in the "marché."



Students enjoying the different products offered by the Marketing Club.

Local Programming Contest at AUI

MOUNA EL MANSOURI

(continued from page 1)
The AUI Association for Computing Machinery, or the ACM Club, organized the contest. The goals of the

contest included motivating computer science students to practice and spurring improvement through friendly competition, as explained by

Sara Benabacir, the president of the ACM Club.

The contest drew a very high attendance and participation. "Fourteen teams

signed up for the contest for a total of more than 40 participants. We were very surprised by their motivation and competition spirit," said Benabacir.

One day before the contest, students participated in a demo session to familiarize themselves with the platform they would be using during the contest. The demo session also served as an opportunity for participants to learn more about ACM and ACM programming challenges. According to the organizing club, Oct. 29 was only the first date in a long series of contests to be organized next semester.

The final results were computed to be the sum of the points between the two rounds. Time is taken into consideration when two teams get the same points.

The winner of that contest will be announced during a ceremony toward the beginning of next semester along with the announcement of AUI Top Coder, the winner of the Bi-Weekly Problems Contest, which is the contest that involves solving ACM problems sent by the club each two weeks.



The contest required a great deal of concentration from all participants.

SGA recruits new members

LEILA JABRANE

Over the last two months, AUI's Student Government Association has resorted to an exceptional hiring procedure in order to replace members lost due to graduation and resignation.

SGA sent an e-mail informing AUI students about the recruiting conditions and urging interested students to send their CVs no later than Oct 1.

"Pre-selected students went for an interview, and only those who proved willingness to join the team and demonstrated the skills and abilities to work efficiently were selected," said Obaira Afifi, the SGA secretary general. These students are Badre Bouriach, Ahmed Chaikhoun, Marouane Chbaatou, Youssef Chtioui, Mouna El Mansouri, and Souad Touil.

"Still, these students are not considered to be one hundred percent SGA members," added Obaira, "They are in a period of trial. They have been given some projects to work on."

Busy semester for the School of Business Administration and the AUI Finance Club

MOUNA EL MANSOURI

(continued from page 1)

After the conferences about "Mortgage Loans and the Latest Financial Crisis in Europe and U.S.A" and "Evaluation Techniques of Loss Risks in Financial Markets", five other conferences were organized this semester.

The first presentation was conducted by Karim El Aynaoui, the director of the research department at the Moroccan central bank, Bank Al-Maghreb in the board room on Oct. 19. During this conference titled "Development of the Financial Structure of the Moroccan Economy – an International Perspective," El Aynaoui discussed the major criteria that the central bank uses to assess the development of the financial sector in Morocco. These criteria evaluated the depth of the financial market, its strength, and its efficiency, in addition to measurements of activity and profitability. The study done by BAM based on these criteria included a comparison between Morocco and six other countries, namely Egypt, Tunisia, Malaysia, Jordan, Chili, and Turkey. All measures were averaged to a 5-years period.

The second conference, organized on Nov. 15 in the board room at 6:30 PM, knew the exceptional participation of Mr. Ahmed Lahlimi Alami, Haut-Commissaire au Plan with the rank of a minister, and addressed the "Energetic Perspectives of Morocco in the 2030 Horizon". The conference emphasized the

importance of adopting a new energy strategy incorporating the regional factors and the challenge that the energy sector knows in relationship to the economic growth of the country.

"The New Profession of Management Controller in Morocco" conference was given by Dr. Mohammed Lotfi, a university professor and management control expert, on Nov. 20, at 7:00 PM in the game room. The talk revolved around the definition of management control as a new professional orientation in the Moroccan job market and its special features and roles inside a company.

AUI students had the opportunity on Nov. 26 to meet Mr. Mohamed Horani, the CEO of Hightech Payment Systems (HPS) during a conference organized by the SBA and the graduate entrepreneurship class. This conference was applauded by students and faculty since HPS is a Moroccan success story business that could imposed itself nationally and internationally. Horani also expressed his joy of being at AUI saying that he felt "years younger thanks to the university environment and energy emanating from it". The discussion focused on the company and its strategic positioning in the growing market of electronic payments.

On Nov. 29, the SBA invited Mr. Mohamed Abahmaoui to give a presentation about "Leadership & Personal Development" in auditorium 4. It is important to say that Mr. Mohamed Abahmaoui is an internationally known motivational



AUI president welcoming Mr. Horani, the president of HPS.

speaker in personal development, leadership, and coaching for success, and that his experience in the domain and communication skills did not fail to attract the attention and interest of the audience at the highest level.

This semester registered one of the highest levels of attendance to confer-

ence organized by the SBA and its different partners such the AUI Financa Club. That is to say that the topics and personalities invited represented high standards and that constant hope of the organizers to benefit and interest the AUI community seems to finally bear fruits.

Successful opera closes the German Day

LEILA JABRANE

(continued from page 1)

The opera concert turned out to be the most successful event in the larger German Day celebration.

Fatima Azzahra El Azouzouzi, the president of the German Club, said the idea initiated by Dr. Haddouti, advisor of the Club, took one year and a half to be implemented. The financial aid from the Hassan II Foundation for Moroccan Residents Abroad and Al Akhawayn University were pivotal.

"We believed we prepared the event well and we did a huge advertising campaign on campus," Azzahra said. "We knew that most students knew about the event, but we were not quiet sure about how many would attend. It was a pleasure to find out that the auditorium was full, even if it's not the kind of musical culture that is common among AUI students. This gave a good impression of the artistic level of our students."

In addition to students, the president of the university, the vice president for student affairs, the vice president for financial affairs, and numerous faculty members showed

up to see the German troupe "Ensemble Amadé" and the Moroccan – German diva Malika Reyad performing the best of Mozart, Beethoven, Verdi, Offenbach and others.



Malika Reyad performing Carmen, a French opera by Georges Bizet.

During the concert, AUI United Choir interpreted 3 songs from its repertoire.

CDs with dedications by Malika Reyad and her companions were sold at the entrance of Auditorium 17 to gather donations for the deaf children of Immouzzet Foundation.

German day also featured a series of talks in the Game Room starting from 11 a.m. The dignitaries included Gottfried Haas, Ambassador of Germany in Morocco; Manfred Ewel, Pedagogical Director of the Goethe Institute; Dr. Brigitte Heuel-Rolf, director of the GTZ in Morocco; and, Stephan Hollensteiner, Program Coordinator at the International Office of Technische Universitaet Muenchen.

The game room hosted an exhibition about Germany all day long; and, as a final touch, the restaurant served German food during lunchtime.

Rotaract Club's Gala Party attracts artists, goodwill

**LAILA ELATIKI
ELGUENNOUNI**

On Saturday, Nov. 24, AUI's Rotaract Club invited a panel of Moroccan artists to participate in a Gala Party for the benefit of the Ifrane community.

The proceeds went to two Ifrane primary schools: Ennassr and Assalam.

The Moroccan artists who attended the party included the comedian Khiari, Orchestra Lamrini, and the singers El Bekri Marouan and his cousin El Bekri Ali, who participated in the TV show Studio 2M.

"The artists' presence was very appealing," said Kenza Bannani, an HRD student, "but what was even more appealing about the event was its noble cause."

Editorial

INASS MSAIDI



With a great pleasure, AuiBridge editorial board is publishing its second issue for Fall 2007. The whole team made a tremendous effort to select articles that would meet a variety of tastes and interests. I would like to remind students that letters to editor represent a very important medium for the students to make their voices heard. Unfortunately, this section is receiving very view contributions.

The editorial board of the newspaper decided to chose the "ITS service" as the focus topic of this issue. For this reason, the letters to editor raised the problem at the level of the ITS and provide suggestions to improve the quality of the service. Additionally, the features desk prepared a survey about the ITS service provided that was sent to AUI students.

This half of the semester was full of special events organized by the student activities office. One of the most successful events for the semester was The Moroccan Film Days. This event was an opportunity for the AUI community to get in touch with the world of cinema by watching various long and short movies as well as meeting Moroccan actors and film directors. Another event that marked the students' activities was the Opera night organized by the German Club. This event showed the university's willingness to promote tolerance and openness to other cultures. The Rotaratct Gala party was very successful

Other interesting activities such as Spanish Day and Rif Cultural Day contributed the AUI's event-filled atmosphere.

After these hectic events, it time to prepare for final exams. On behalf of the AuiBridge team, I would like to wish you all the best in your final exams and see you next semester.

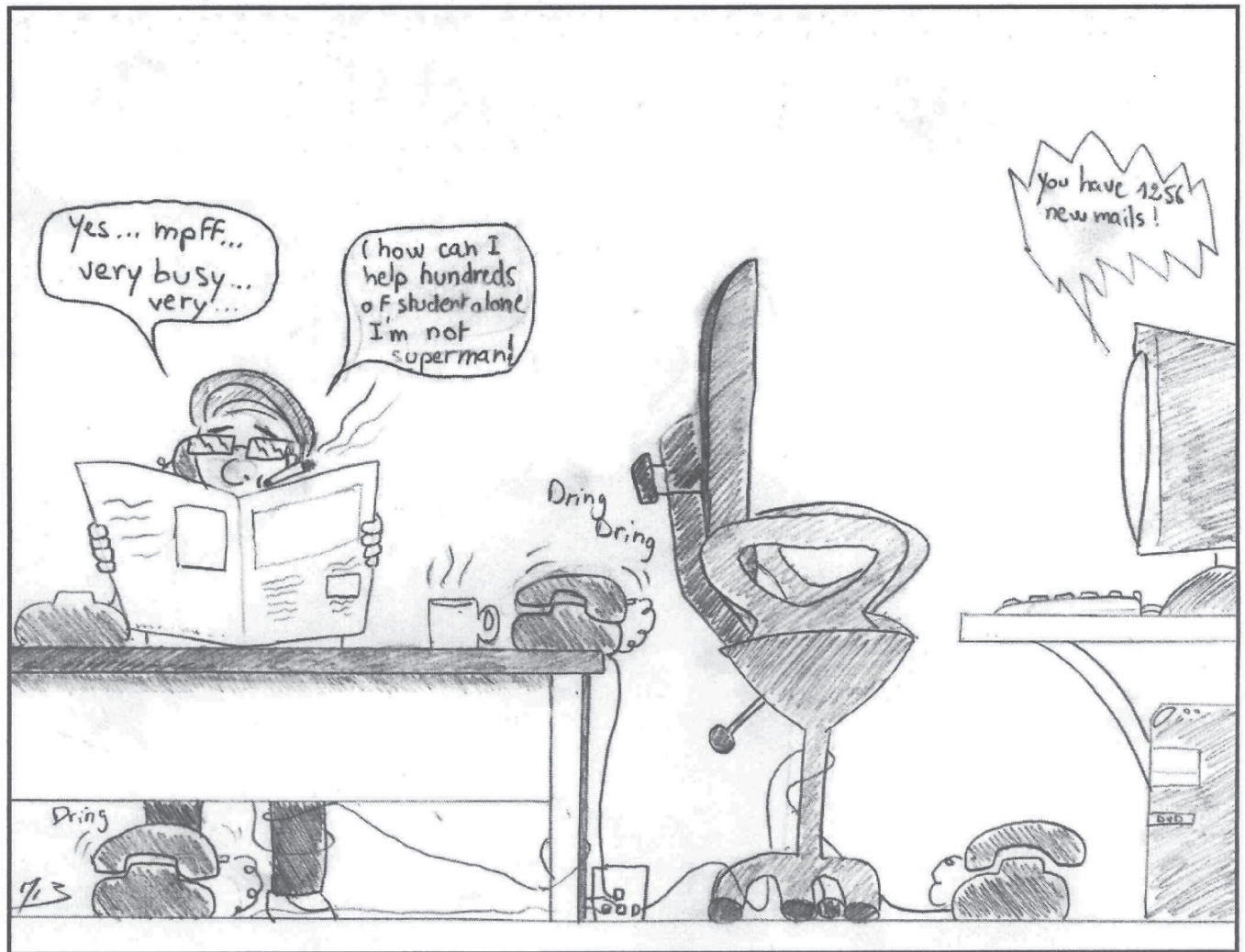
NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC

Food on Campus

Have something to say?
Get it off your chest!
Write us a letter!

The AUI Bridge wants to hear from you!

Contact:
bridge@aui.ma



Letters to the Editor Student Government Association

Dear editor

During this semester, the time I have had to allocate to check and send emails has increased to 15 minutes, then 20 minutes. Sometimes endless tries yield no results. Also, the server is down much of the time, which creates a lot of problems. The internet problems have accumulated day after day and interfered with my academic life, especially because emails are sometimes the only channel of communication between us and our professors. Why is it that these problems are occurring only in this semester and not in previous years? It is true that we've had these kinds of problems from time to time before, but not all the time like this semester. The problem is we feel that nothing has been done to solve the issue. I think the ITS should get the students' feedback in order to re-assess the quality of the service. Effective communication can help in resolving the problem, though I think it is

more a problem of management than technical difficulties.

Imane Amzil

Dear editor,

My major problem since the first time I entered AUI is my web mail. It is a real exercise of patience and persistence. It needs a lot of time to upload the content of the page, asks for your user name and password over and over again, and sometimes does not even open the main page and keeps popping up an error message. Besides that problem, I wouldn't mind having a faster speed of connection, because it takes a lot of time to send files and upload web pages. Finally, I would like to thank all the workers in the ITS for their constant efforts to provide all the students with the necessary resources for an optimal study environment.

Salma Gaouzi

Letters to the Editor Policy

AUI BRIDGE welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 200 words and must include writers name. Editors have the right to edit letters for length, grammar and spelling. Letters may be delivered to

the newsroom in the Student Activities Office or emailed to bridge@aui.ma For more information, stop by the newsroom or contact the editor-in-chief.

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Exchange Column

Shaykh Sanders and Morocco-fried chicken?

 SHADEA MITCHELL

I'm from Kentucky. I'm sure that to many of you it's an obscure state somewhere in the US, which may or may not have a loose association with Colonel Sanders and his famous chicken (Mmm, Kentucky Fried!). After living in Morocco for about six months,



I've come to realize that the place I come from has a lot in common with this lovely country I've come to love. As a point of interest and pride, I'd like to share some remarkable similarities I've come across.

The first and most obvious aspect to me lies in the food. Moroccans love chicken, Kentuckians love chicken too! Moroccans love tajine, Kentuckians love potluck! Moroccan love things fried, the art of frying was invented in Kentucky. Desert can be considered a meal in both places. We both like super sweet tea with mint, although we disagree on the presentable temperature. Kentuckians can't cook green beans without a little bacon fat and Moroccan can't imagine a main dish without a little lamb in it. Harcha=cornbread. Enough said.

A second aspect of comparison lies in the distinctive rural population. In Kentucky, people in the rural areas are farmers living in the backwoods. They are often seen sitting on their front porches with shotguns in their hands and chewing tobacco. In Morocco, the rural dwellers are either farmers or goat herders with a feisty spirit, enjoying a little kif now and then. In Kentucky they're called hillbillies; in Morocco they're called Berber. In Kentucky people love their horses while in the south of Morocco Saharans love their camels. Both groups of people love their religious holidays and celebrate big, whether it's Christmas or Eid Kabir. These are the people that create the flavor of their relative places. Both are highly respectable and interesting people in my book.

As a final point of similarity, both Kentucky and Morocco share in a tradition of folk art and local production. We have quilts, Moroccans have rugs. Kentucky flea markets are essentially open-air souks. Women in my home town make kitschy gourd bowls painted with grapes, while Moroccans definitely have the upper hand with Fassi leather and Sahari silver. Morocco has some bang-for-your-buck wine and in Kentucky we make bourbon whiskey. You have ghanawa drums and I have bluegrass banjo strummin'.

All in all, transitioning to life in Morocco has been a piece of cake (or shebekiya), a home away from home. Of all the places I could have ended up to study abroad, I'm glad my bare feet carried me to the Maghrib. Thanks Morocco!

Exchange Column

Sixty days in Oxford

 AFAF CHEKKAR

Inside every one of us lies a little time machine which takes one back in time when recalling memories. I was having a look at some postcards when my time machine began to work and took me back in time, although not very far from the present day, to the month of May 2007 when I was preparing for a trip to Oxford, the city of dreaming spires.

During the last month of May, I knew that I could do an internship in the astrophysics department of Oxford University. I owe thanks to my professor Dr. Darhmaoui, and to the school of science and engineering at AUI. Although I was expecting to travel during the first week of June, some delays in paper work pushed the starting date of the internship to June 19.

My first weeks in the city of Oxford were characterized by a mixture of fascination

and uncertainty was due to many reasons such as cultural confusion, the difficulty of the internship subject—which combined astronomy, physics and computer science—and the process of adjusting to my new life style at Oxford.

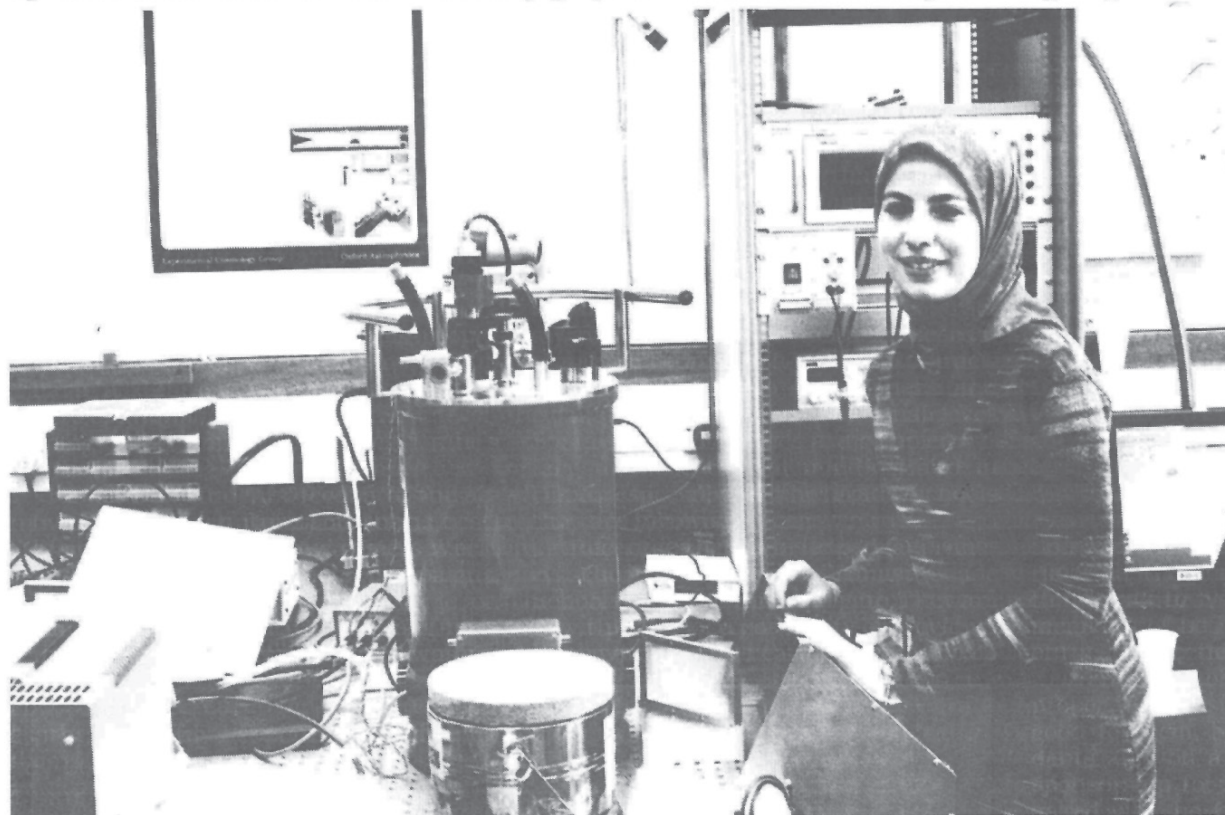
By mid July I began to feel more comfortable about my internship. During that period, I was actively involved in the activities of the research group that I have joined, which is the experimental cosmology group at Oxford University. My project was studying methods of detection of weak signals in submillimeter astronomy, and about simulating and optimizing the use of superconducting mixers as astronomical detectors.

My supervisor Dr. Ghassan Yassin was a very helpful and inspiring person, he also allowed me to attend meetings and conferences about astronomy projects undertaken

the chance to meet highly educated scientists who were a source of inspiration to me.

The period of about mid-July was also memorable at the personal level. I had many friends from different countries such as France, the U.S., Italy, and Spain from whom I could learn a lot about other cultures. I managed to visit the city of London and some beautiful villages around Oxford. I went to many museums and departments of the university. In addition, I attended an Opera night in the chapel of New College at Oxford, which is one of the oldest chapels in UK.

My time machine is now getting close to the end of the internship period at Oxford, a period in which I was too excited about going back to my home country and my family, and at the same time sad as I was going to leave Oxford very shortly. Although I spent more



Afaf working in the lab.

and uncertainty. My fascination came from the royalty of the city of Oxford, which still maintains the charming old aspect of a city of knowledge, culture and historical heritage. With its beautiful old buildings and different museums, which preserve the heritage of humanity in science, culture, and arts, visiting the city of Oxford made my summer time very enjoyable. My

by Oxford University. For instance, I attended two major meetings which gathered scientists and researchers from Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester and Cardiff Universities about a very important astronomy project named CLOVER. These activities along with my internship duties definitely enriched my professional, personal and scientific experience. They also gave me

than two months of learning, gaining work experience in an international research laboratory, enjoying life in the city of Oxford, I missed my country, my family and the enjoyable summer I am used to spending with them.

Still, I was saddened to leave the city of dreaming spires. I found my stay in this city one of the most interesting experiences of my life.

AUI Exchange students: Problems and cultural representation

ALI BENSEDDIK

Al Akhawayn students usually talk about exchange programs in positive terms—as adventures full of self discovery that invariably broaden a student's cultural and academic background.

Unfortunately, sometimes cultural, economical, civic differences can make it difficult for exchange students to integrate into the academic system. Additionally, study abroad students have a responsibility to serve as ambassadors for the culture of their native countries.

What can be done to help exchange students from AUI integrate into their host cultures? And how effective have AUI students been when it comes to serving as ambassadors for Moroccan culture? To explore these issues, we at the AUI Bridge called upon the experience of three AUI students who have been exchange students to the U.S. Hopefully, their experiences can help future AUI exchange students.

One of the major problems exchange students face is registering for courses. Many applying exchange students have difficulties finding courses suitable to their major and equivalent to the AUI classes' description.

Soumaya Saadi, an AUI engineering student, applied for an exchange program during the last spring semester. However, she could not "find enough courses in the host institution." This factor, according to her, was the one of the main reasons that pushed her to leave the program.

Once students arrive to the host institution, they also face problems registering for preap-

proved courses. Saida Hida, an exchange student who is now at George Washington University in the District of Columbia, U.S., said, "My first week here was very stressing; I could register to only one course. Other AUI colleagues and I felt a bit disoriented especially that we were not prepared to what we had faced. We directly contacted professors and we attended classes without being registered in order to show interests on the subject and consequently to maximize our chances to get a special permission. Personally I succeeded to be registered in some other courses, but my roommate, who was from AUI too, did not."

Other students reported similar experiences.

We asked Iman Kabbaj, who studies at Boston College, and Soumia Errida who is now in the University of North Florida, about the challenges of becoming acquainted with foreign academic systems. Both agreed that adopting to the study system in the U.S. was easy because of similarities to the system at AUI. However, Hida thought that the academic load was taxing.

Regarding the professor and competence, Saida hida has noticed that "there are some excellent professors and there are others average." Iman Kabbaj claimed that "professors are so experienced, skilled and tolerant with students that it would be pity to be absent for a course." Soumia Errida said that she "love classes here [at the University of North Florida]... because professors are helpful."

All three students studying in the U.S. who have been



contacted by the AUI Bridge stressed that they have never or rarely been absent for classes because they have been learning so much from the lectures.

Moreover, all three students studying in the U.S. said they were pleasantly surprised to find how much they enjoyed their new social lifestyle, which permitted them to have new views about the world and life. Most of students whom we asked integrated easily the foreign culture. Soumia Errida said she has not suffered from racism and has not had difficulties adopting to her the new culture. However, she added that her "English level was not enough high to communicate effortlessly with other people."

Saida Hida added that "people are tolerant and helpful es-

pecially if the relation is based on mutual respect and acceptance; otherwise, cultural conflicts may emerge."

In addition, AUI exchange students notice that people from the other backgrounds often show interest in Moroccan culture. Soumia Errida noticed that "People are very excited especially when you told them that you are a foreigner and from Morocco."

Some AUI exchange students, taking the lead from other proactive students, helped create a positive image of Moroccan culture by organizing events. This semester the two GWU exchange students, Saida Hida and Houda Rachidi, managed to organize two successful Moroccan dinners with the themes "Moroccan Savor" and

"Andalusian Music."

If AUI exchange students do not represent their culture by hosting events, they may do it though everyday communication with other people. Indeed, AUI exchange students perceive that most of the other people in the United States as open minded and curious, and feel free and encouraged to communicate their cultural identity. Students could talk about both positive and negative features of the Moroccan society.

Soumia Errida said, "When I talk about Morocco I talk about good and bad things of the country I won't deny it!"

Unfortunately, based on the interviews, it seems that AUI students had little to say about AUI, positive or negative.

Confusion surrounds AUI's biotechnology program

HAMZA FQIH BERRADA

The addition of a new science of biotechnology program at AUI this semester should have been a positive development. Unfortunately, poor communication has left many students unaware that this new academic option even exists.

The main objective of this program, as it is explained in AUI's website, "is to equip students and professionals, with a

It is "unthinkable for a student" that enrolled in AUI to pursue "what she loves" to change her field of study because of problems encountered by the school.

background in biological sciences, with emphasis on the most recent methodologies and techniques in biotechnology and related sciences."

The new program did not get the expected success, however. Indeed, only one student, Zineb El Abbassi Chraibi,

enrolled in the Bachelor's of Science in Biotechnology. This may be because the AUI website advertises a master's degree but not a bachelor's degree in that field.

Even the student who did join the program had difficulty finding information. She said she couldn't even find the folder in relation to the Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology. The student concerned explained that the Dean tried to make her "change the Biotechnology section".

The issue is apparently not yet solved. A good example for that is that this student added that the SSE school did not give her any clarification concerning her situation and that the dean "avoided any confrontation". According to her, it is "unthinkable for a student" that enrolled in AUI to pursue "what she loves" to change her field of study because of problems encountered by the school.

Obviously, there is a problem of coordination within the campus that threatens the credibility of our university. It is time for students and administrators to begin to ask "why?"



Give ITS a break!

YASSINE MAJDI

A survey about the Information Technology Service has shown that 78 percent of AUI students possess a laptop. This means that over a 1000 people connect through the AUI network through a 24-Megabyte connection provided by the internet service provider "Maroc Telecom." This is all thanks to the ITS. But, since the beginning of fall semester 2007, more and more students complain about the ITS services.

Youssef Drissi, a BA student, stated that "the ITS employee working near the post office wasn't able to connect me."

This particular student however is not the only one who feels this way. In fact, 71 percent of AUI students tend to confuse ITS with ITSS. The ITSS Information Technol-

55 percent of the students who took the survey declared that it takes between one and two days to solve their mail problem.

ogy Service for Students, is the part of the ITS which employs 21 people and in 9 sections. The section in charge of the students' and staff e-mail

addresses employs two people: one of them in charge of staff e-mail and the other is in charge of all the students' e-

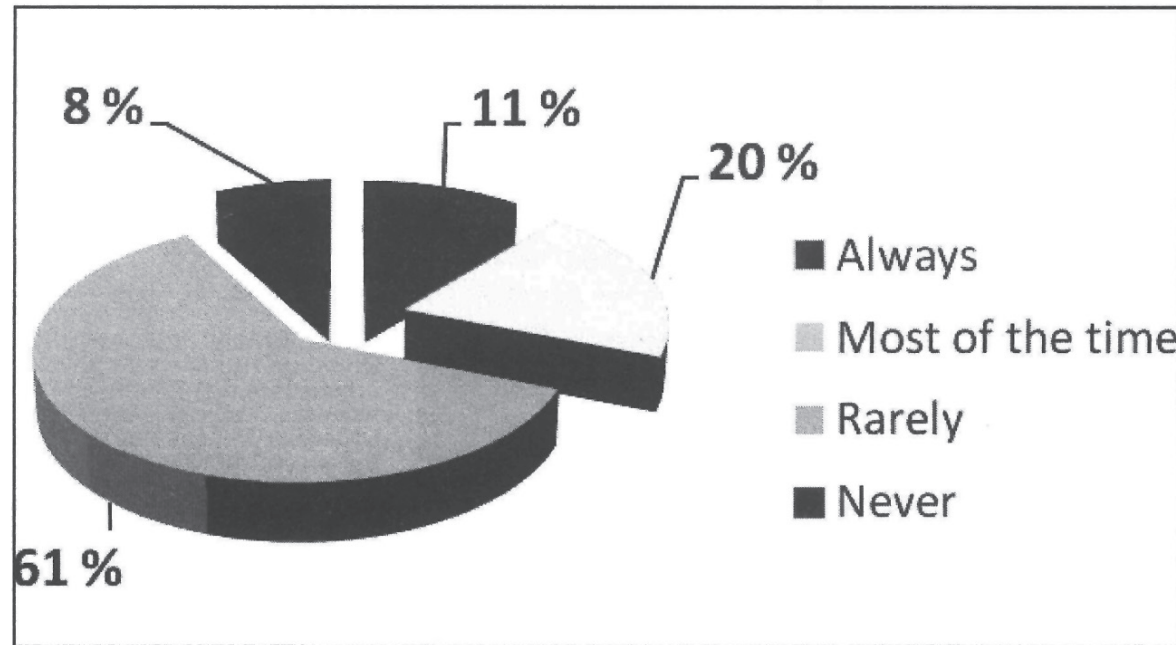
rarely available. Handling the emails of more than 1000 students can be hard for one employee, especially when he

sponsible of the ITSS. This explains the time needed by the webmail services in order to solve a problem.

mail problem. This is "quite long for students who need to check their e-mail everyday" as Mehdi Bekhti, a BA student declared.

The ITSS is the section that causes confusion among 71 percent of students. That is why almost 66 percent of students do not know who to call when having a problem. This section, which has one employee, Said Benhammou, is certainly the most important section of the ITS for the students. He is an intermediary between students and the ITS service. He takes charge of internet connection problems, software problems, hardware problems, and sometimes re-directs students to other services. He also has to help students format their computers.

To sum up, Benhammou has to take care of the entire students' computers problem, which consists on handling hundreds of requests per semester. He is especially overwhelmed at certain periods of time like "the beginning and the end of the semester" which lead him to ask for help from his colleagues. This could explain why 61 percent of students rate the availability of the ITSS as "rare."



Students' rating of ITSS' availability

mail problems.

This could explain why 65 percent of the students think that the webmail services are

has to deal with additional problems leading to a "rush of students to my office" as said Said Benhammou who is re-

Also, 55 percent of the students who took the survey declared that it takes between one and two days to solve their

Student Ambassadors Association Awards Ceremony

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

The Student Ambassadors Association held a special awards ceremony to honour active student ambassadors in the auditorium of building 4, on Nov. 27.

Student ambassadors' mission consists of presenting AUI to prospective students, their families, and their community. Additionally student ambassadors share their experiences in order to give an accurate idea of the life, goals and values of this academic institution.

Rachid Hadre from Admissions and Outreach Office inaugurated the ceremony. In his speech, Hadre highlighted the main responsibilities of a student ambassador.

It is true that AUI provides brochures and does advertisement in the media in order to present itself and attract potential students, but a student's perspective of university life would be better received and understood by these students and their families. "Indeed, AUI student ambassadors have proved a great interest and showed their energy in admissions and outreach campaigns" Hadre said.

The Vice President for Student Affairs, Cherif Bel Fekih, provided a speech highlighting the values of university and the mission of students during their studies at AUI. Speaking about student ambassadors of AUI, Bel Fekih said that "it is a group that distinguished itself."

He added, "It is a group that believed in university

AUI student ambassadors have proved a great interest and showed their energy in admissions and outreach campaigns

and wanted to share its values with others."

An active student ambassador, Loubna Achmoul, introduced herself and her experience as an active ambassador. "When I first came to AUI, I was scared and amazed at once by the big campus size," said Loubna. "...but when I met student ambassadors in their black t-shirts, I was relieved because I knew that there would

be always a student next to me who can guide me around and offer me assistance."

Dr. Belfekih, Vice President for Finance and Administration, Dr. Kamal, and members of Admissions and Outreach Office presented certificates to student

ambassadors as an honour to their continuous commitment to their mission. The ceremony ended with an awards presentation to students who attracted the highest numbers of prospective students to take entrance tests.



AUI community there to applaud the efforts of AUI ambassadors.

Spotlight

Druvenga's passion for education

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

Darrell Druvenga is one of the new faculty members who joined Al Akhawayn University at the beginning of the current semester. Although he is new to AUI he has been in the education world most of his life.

Since his early years of youth, Druvenga has foreseen his future career as a member of the education world family. His mother was a teacher; this has surely offered Druvenga a clear idea about the meaning of being a teacher as well as the message they carry.

Druvenga is from the state of Iowa, which is located in the central part of the U.S. He studied at the University of Northern Iowa where he majored in history with the goal of teaching in a secondary school. After graduation, he applied for Master's degree in educational administration. He continued with his doctoral studies until he obtained an education doctorate (Ed.D.) Along the way, he acquired extensive teaching experience in such subjects as history, economics and political science.

Druvenga has always paid special attention to both the quality and quantity of academic work he expects from his students.

"Students rise to the level that is expected of them," he ex-



plained.

On the other hand, he strongly believes that "Students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

Druvenga is not a professor whom you would expect to see only in class or in his office,

but rather a person whom you would very often see around campus talking to students and enjoying some pool game with them. Many students noticed Druvenga's presence at restaurant, cafeteria or even during



the late-night Ramadan Soccer Tournament.

"He is a friendly and interesting person with whom I enjoy talking" says Youssef Bounaga, a BA sophomore student.

Walid Bouzoubaa, a BA student and Feature Editor of the AUI Bridge stated that "Dr.

Druvenga is a great professor. Even if he seems very nice outside the class, but when it comes to his students, he is strict and expects the best to be done."

As a matter of fact, Dr Druvenga has once asked many of his Applied Independent Learning Methods class students to drop the course because they did not fulfil their job and did not do the assigned homework. "Regardless of his sociability, Dr Druvenga is still a professor and puts limits to his kindness when it comes to serious work in class," Walid added.

Concerning Morocco, Dr Druvenga thinks that it is a unique country with an interesting and rich culture. Dr Druvenga is in Morocco for the second time. His first time was a year ago during summer 2006 as a tourist. He was then visiting some friends of him who showed him around Ifrane and AUI. At that time, he was amazed to hear about the exciting educational opportunities that AUI students have. Now, a visiting professor in the Center

for Academic Development, Dr Druvenga could get an insight on such opportunities.

"I am very impressed by the quality of AUI students," Druvenga said. He strongly thinks that students at AUI are exposed to a very rich learning environment that surely enables them from getting an "excellent level of education."

"I could notice that AUI students have the desire to learn and willingness to work hard," said Druvenga. "They also are enthusiastic about the future of their country, and have strong attachments to their families which is very good and different from U.S.A students' case." Furthermore, Dr Druvenga points out that "it is not easy to read, write and speak in a third language"- referring to AUI students who work in English.

"Thanks to his seriousness at work, unique sense of viewing life, and distinctive young spirit, Dr Darrell Druvenga is definitely an extraordinary AUI Professor," said Kamal Et Taouil, a freshman student majoring in EMS.

Hey, you—get involved and fight for the community!

HIND SADDIKI

Though Hand and Hand Association and Rotaract Club are constantly doing great things for the community, many students—especially Freshmen—remain uninformed about their activities. We at the AUI Bridge believe these clubs deserve recognition and that more steps are necessary to inform students about their good deeds.

Each semester, "Hand in Hand-ers" work hard for the sake of community development. Their projects range from the "Mobile Library," which tours the region to provide schools with books, to the popular "Fun Run," which raises funds for the schoolbag campaigns launched at the start of every school year. In addition to these, a number of new projects are being launched this semester, said Kawtar Chriyaa, the current president of Hand in Hand Association.

With a new vision that has "shifted from just charity to more community driven development," the association now seeks to "get the people [of the region of Ifrane] more involved in helping themselves," Chriyaa said.

Some students may have noticed the club has been selling small round bread on campus. Chriyaa explained that "actually, the bread is being baked by a lady from Timeddikine and sold here."

The bread selling is part of the "Elderly Circle," a new plan which aims at to "provide [senior citizens] with medical care and other needs such as firewood and clothes." After the success of this venture this past month, they plan to expand it further to include other women and more variety in the baked products, so that more people can benefit from it.

Hand in Hand also plans to launch a project known as "Attahadi," which is Arabic for "the challenge." Chriyaa explained that the competition "is open to

young people... living in Ifrane. Whoever has an idea for a project that can help in the development of Ifrane (education, tourism, economy ...) and that will provide a living for at least 5 or 6 people" is eligible to participate in the competition. The winners will benefit from sponsorship from Hand in Hand, and the remaining funds will be obtained via micro credit.

With the same eye to helping people, the members of AUI's Rotaract Club have a different approach—benefiting the community by promoting and developing leadership skills among Ifrane's citizens.

Based on students' feedback, the activities for which Rotaract club is best-known include Health Awareness Week, and tetanus and flu shots' campaigns. These have been limited to people on campus so far. Obaira Afifi, a long-term member of Rotaract Club who was re-

cently elected National Coordinator of Rotaract Morocco, explained that it is difficult for them to "go beyond AUI with the limited resources" at their disposal.

However, she added that they are working on "organizing some campaign in collaboration with the ministry of Health for the benefit of Ifrane community."

Afifi stressed the fact that Rotaract always operates as part of a whole, constantly meeting with other "Rotaracters" across Morocco in seminars and events organized at the national level. Some of their activities are complementary to those carried out by Hand in Hand, especially at the grade schools they are involved.

Recently the club helped a primary school of the region, Ennasr Grade School repair the yard and gate. They are now thinking of a possibility of providing them with central heating, a multimedia

room and a fresh coat of paint for the school building. Afifi also mentioned that the Rotaract members at AUI are busy preparing for an event the club will announce in due time. She promises it will be the "highlight of the year" for the Rotaract Club.

Though one is termed an associa-

as if being part of Hand in Hand Facebook group makes me a member, I never signed up actually... plus 30 members is just embarrassing compared to other Facebook groups

tion and the other a club, Rotaract and Hand in Hand collaborate in many of the events to lighten the load for their members of both and achieve as much of their respective agendas as they can.

A number of students believe that proper advertising can do worlds of good to them, by attracting more students and, on a larger scale, obtaining sponsorship for their operations. When asked why he joined Hand in Hand, a Freshman answered jokingly: "as if being part of Hand in Hand Facebook group makes me a member, I never signed up actually... plus 30 members is just embarrassing compared to other Facebook groups."

So maybe it is high time for these charitable souls to focus a bit less on giving and put more effort into getting students with the right kind of karma to join. Advertising their past, current and future activities more explicitly would also make their fund-raising and sponsor-hunts less tedious tasks. Even if a good deed is its own reward, a bit of recognition never hurts!



Rotaract members during the Gala party organized this semester.

AUI Celebrates the 6th Edition of Moroccan Film Days

GHASSAN ESSALEHI

Several well-known figures in Moroccan cinema visited Al Akhawayn University for the sixth annual Moroccan Film Days on Nov. 19, 20 and 21.

Each day featured two short movies and a feature-length film. The three feature-length films were *Nancy et le monster* by Mohamed Frites, *Tarfaya*

AUI is an environment that advances creativity that would consequently participate in the development of Morocco

by Daoud Ouled Sayed, and *La Chambre Noire* by Hassan Benjalloun.

The presence of some film directors and famous figures, such as Mohamed Miftah and Rachid El Ouali, made the three-day program an attraction for AUI community. This year, the projections moved from building 4 to building 17 to accommodate a larger audience.

After the projections of the first evening had finished, directors, actors, producers, and technical staff of the featured films took part in a debate, complete with a question and answer

period. One student actually recorded details of camera shots in advance and engaged in a very technical debate concerning the meanings these details may transmit.



The Moroccan stars present were acclaimed by the AUI community.

Social norms obstacles, women plight in Moroccan society, the "lead years" of censorship were major sub-

jects that were featured during the Moroccan Film Days. The three feature films add together to host of real-life stories of many aspects of Moroccan society.

they would be like "muse for these artists and thus would inspire them with new ideas for future projects."

Rachid El Ouali, another famous Moroccan actor and film producer, came to AUI as a guest for the fourth time. This time, he was featured in the short movie "Le Défunt (Al Marhoum)." In an exclusive interview, El Ouali invited AUI students to discover the diversity of films that exist in the Moroccan film industry. "Students have the opportunity to discover another aspect of Moroccan life, the challenges that face its people," he said.

Mohamed Miftah was another well-known figure of Moroccan cinema present during the film days. He said the presence of Moroccan actors during the film days allows students to directly interact with them and discover new facts about their lives. "The Moroccan Film Days at AUI is an important event that positively enables students to discover the characteristics and challenges of Moroccan cinema industry," said Miftah.

Moroccan actor Driss Roukh has been a frequent visitor of AUI. Roukh said he thinks that AUI is an institution that endorses cultural dialogue, and intercultural understanding. Furthermore, Roukh stated that "AUI is an environment that advances creativity that would consequently participate in the development of Morocco."

"I believe that AUI will give birth to many of tomorrow's future leaders in Morocco who can enrich the film industry and back it up well," Roukh said.

The events of these days were organized by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences in collaboration with the Department of Communication and Development, Student Activities Office and Communication Club.



Dr. Moncif Nazihi receiving a plaque from Dean Dahbi for his participation in the Moroccan Film Days.



Mohamed Frites acclaimed on stage.

AUI's Voices United sings again

MOHAMED HASSOUNI

For this issue, we interviewed Leila Lebbar, the founder of Voices United, AUI's choir.

How did you get directed into choir singing?

My mom is behind my great attachment to music. At 9 years old she made sure I took regular music and piano classes. She wanted music to be part of my everyday life (she succeeded, I can tell you!). I first started as a member of La Chanterie directed first by a famous Hungarian professor, Gabriella Boda, then by Miss Jalila Bennani a very known Mezzo Soprano Singer. I then was part of many other choirs (Polyphonia, Les Alizées...etc.) and took part of different national and international workshops for choir singing (Festival des Alizées in Essaouira, Les Chorégies de Marrakech, La Rencontre des Trois Culture in Rabat and Essaouira, Les Cantilines in Marseille and Budapest...etc.). I was then able to improve my skills and share my passion with interested students in AUI.

What can you tell us from your experience as the founders of AUI Voices United Choir?

Well, I have to say that the idea of creating a choir started as a joke! It was one of these long mornings where we had to go through all the departments with the orientation team. We stopped by the Student Activities Office and heard this nice guy talking about all kinds of clubs and how students can start their own clubs. I tried to make a joke and said that I was interested in creating a choir. Everybody was laughing except Abdesamad, who afterwards made every effort possible to make it happen. We were 7 people to start with: 1 guy and 6 girls! The number of members quickly

increased after our performances inside and outside AUI.

Where did you perform?

Since its creation, Voices United performed in almost all talent shows as well as other university events (Palestinian Day, German Day, Faculty Gala...etc). The Voices United Choir is also regularly invited to take part of the Interna-

choir singers were invited to perform in the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès in Cannes, France.

What is your best memory with the AUI Voices United Choir?

Just like any team working together, whether it is soccer team, theater troupe, the best moments we have as

in the choir are diverse. In fact, during our trips we also learn to live with each other and share our experiences (members are usually from different parts of the globe). And that is what is so special about the AUI Choir: from which ever culture, religion, or belief people may come from, they all join their voices to produce one harmony.

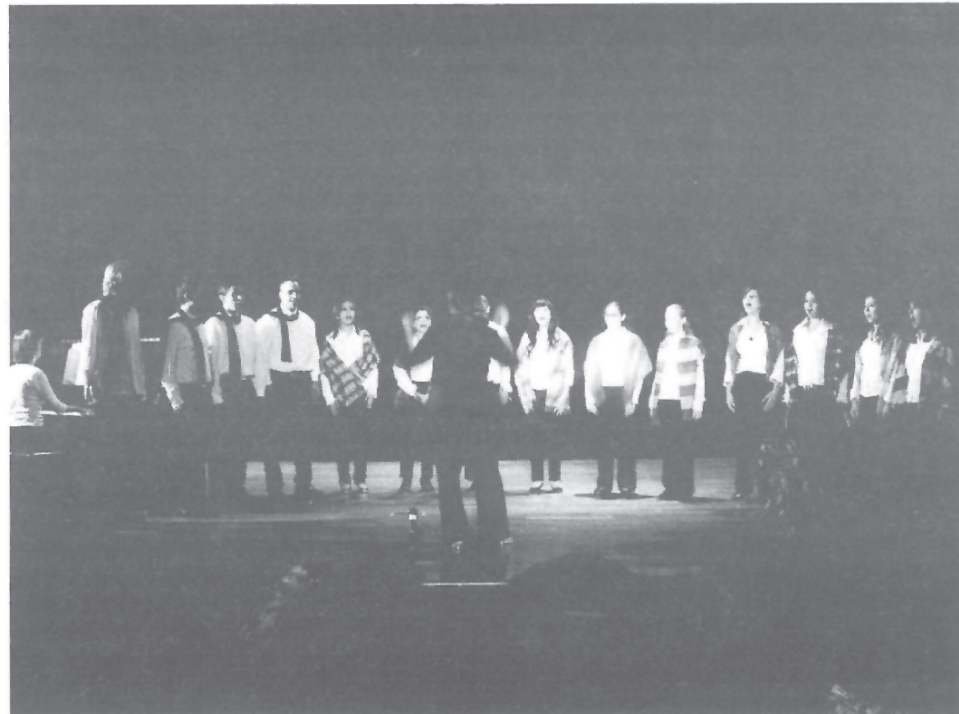
Some memories can be just like a dream. Our concert au Palais des Festivals in Cannes was one of them; We now call it our "Voyage de Stars".

Now the worst memory?

I really wouldn't say we have bad 'memories'. In fact, every experience for us was unique and enriching. However, I can still talk about a small anecdote that the choir members (especially the ones concerned!) will never forget. Our very first appearance on stage was...let's say: special! Everybody remembers the Arabic song ' Houa Taouil, Taouil Sabil, yaoumoun mada ...'

Now a question about your performances. Did you plan to perform this semester?

We had our first show of the semester on the 22nd of November with the Ensemble Amadé and Diva Malika Ryad. We sang 3 songs from our repertoire and left the rest for our own show. Even though they were overwhelmed with their midterm exams, Voices United members couldn't refuse the kind invitation of the German Club to take part of the concert. We prepared three different songs from our varied repertoire with a range of music styles (gospel, classical, modern, oriental...etc). People who didn't know us had the opportunity to listen to some of our good songs during our performance on November 22nd.



Voices United performing during the Opera Night.

tional Music Festival in Marrakech with different music bands from all over the world. VUC participated in the two first editions of the festival. Besides, after a great show for the International Pre-Symposium of Water held in AUI, the

choir members are the special feeling we have after successful concerts. Moments like these are just irreplaceable and they are really our motive to keep working hard. This has been said, the great moments we spend all together

Conspiracy theories are alive and well

SPENCER CASE

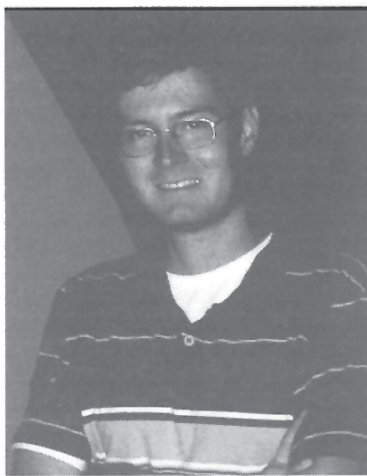
Aliens at Roswell. Castro killed Kennedy. Elvis lives.

There's no denying the pervasiveness of conspiracy theories. With every major world event comes a swarm of websites and fringy "documentaries" offering "alternative explanations." Rumors spread rumors quicker than the facts that refute them.

Some of these conspiracies, such those claiming that the King of Rock is alive, are stupid but basically harmless. Others have the potential to do real harm. This is especially true of the theories regarding the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Over the last few years the internet has become a virtual Petri dish for competing and contradictory conspiracy theories regarding 911. Typically, American conspiracy buffs propose that 911 was an "inside job" or, in other words, that the U.S. government was the culprit. In the Muslim world, many "theories" implicate Israel.

During the few months I have stayed at Al Akhawayn University, I have become concerned over how



many students have been taken in by 911 conspiracy theories that are both factually incorrect and brazenly illogical. I spoke to one student who suggested that Japanese kamikazes might have pulled off the attacks—with a little help from Israel, of course.

That students of an institution of higher learning can have such distorted views should alarm educators. Thus, it's worth taking time to consider some of the most common 911 myths:

1. Israel did it

This conspiracy theory claims that 4000 Jews didn't show up for work the morning of the attack because Israeli agents, the alleged perpetrators, informed them of the attack. This is false. In fact, a minimum of 10 percent of the victims of the attacks, about 400 people, were Jewish. (<http://usinfo.state.gov/media/Archive/2005/Jan/14-260933.html>)

2. 911 was an "inside job"

The 911 Commission Report—which was the combined effort of both political parties in the U.S. Congress—thoroughly investigated the tragedy and concluded that Osama bin Laden was the responsible party. Osama himself took credit in the October 30, 2001 videotape and even named Muhammad Atta as one of the terrorists.

In order for there to have been a U.S. government conspiracy, thousands of people at all levels of government—and from both political parties—would have had to have cooperated to murder of their fellow citizens, or at least been willing to cover it up. Then they would have to pay off Bin Laden to take blame. This is not a likely story.

3. Americans blamed Muslims for 911 because Americans hate Muslims

This is exactly what Osama Bin Laden wants people to think. The historical record suggests otherwise, however. It was the U.S. who helped the Mujahadeen in Afghanistan fight against the Soviet invasion. It was the U.S. who helped expel Saddam Hussein from Kuwait and protect Saudi Arabia in the Gulf War. It was the U.S. who intervened to help Muslims and others in Kosovo and Bosnia. It is U.S. troops, along with NATO allies, who are currently fighting against the Taliban, who oppressed Muslims in Afghanistan for a decade.

This is not to say that U.S. foreign policy has been saintly over the last few decades—far from it! But the notion that Americans are motivated by hatred for Muslims is not true now and never has been.

Why do such explanations persist in the face of logical absurdity? During times of political crises, people tend to distrust government and media institutions, especially when leaders make foolish decisions. Psychology also contributes: people take pleasure in thinking that they have the truth while everybody else has been "fooled by the system." Additionally, it can be comforting to think that all the evil in the world is neatly connected to a single vast conspiracy.

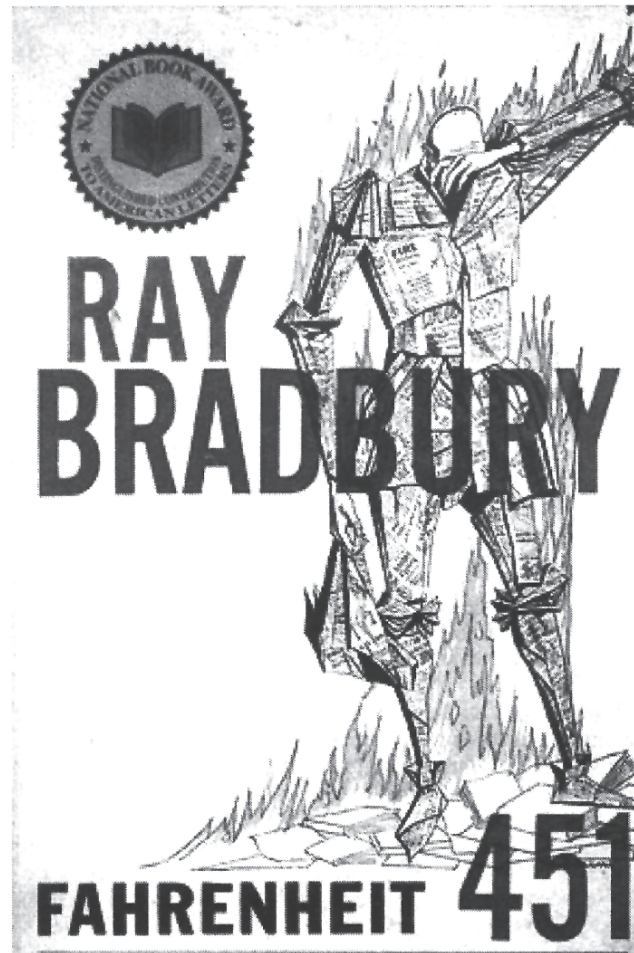
I am embarrassed to say that I, myself, was once taken in by the conspiracy theory that claims the U.S. never made it to the moon. I have since seen good evidence to the contrary and abandoned the absurd position. Now I do the best I can to ground each of my opinions in evidence and reason and eschew the shadowy explanations of the conspiracy hawks.

Spotlight

Fahrenheit 451 still red hot

SPENCER CASE

It was a pleasure to burn. So begins Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury's classic novel about a future society in which reading books is forbidden. Although the book was published half a



century ago, its vision of authoritarianism still resonates with millions of readers around the world.

You might be thinking, "I've heard this before" and you're right—the idea of a tyrannical future society has

been tapped by many other authors and screenplay writers. In fact, there's a whole subgenre dedicated to this idea called "dystopian literature." The word "dystopia" was invented to express the opposite of the perfect society depicted in Thomas Moore's "Utopia."

Dystopian literature was not recognized as a distinct genre until midway through the 20th century. One of the writers to pioneer this form was Jack London, who wrote "The Iron Heel" in 1907. Then a little-known Soviet writer named Yevgeny Zamyatin published an interesting novel called "We" in the 1920's. Since "We" there has been a steady stream of commercially successful dystopian books: Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World," Ayn Rand's "Anthem" and George Orwell's "1984" to name a few.

Why has dystopian literature taken off the way it has? Part of the answer is that the genre is an excellent tool for social commentary. An observant writer can use a dystopian society to exaggerate problems in the real world and thus make them easier for the reader to see. Also, it allows the writer to comment on important issues and still be safely removed from controversy that might ensue in a more familiar setting.

It's not hard to see what controversy Ray Bradbury wanted to comment on. During his lifetime, he saw the rise of Nazi and communist regimes, both of which burned books to suppress dissident information. Bradbury wanted to draw attention to these disturbing events and so he wrote a book that exaggerated them even further.

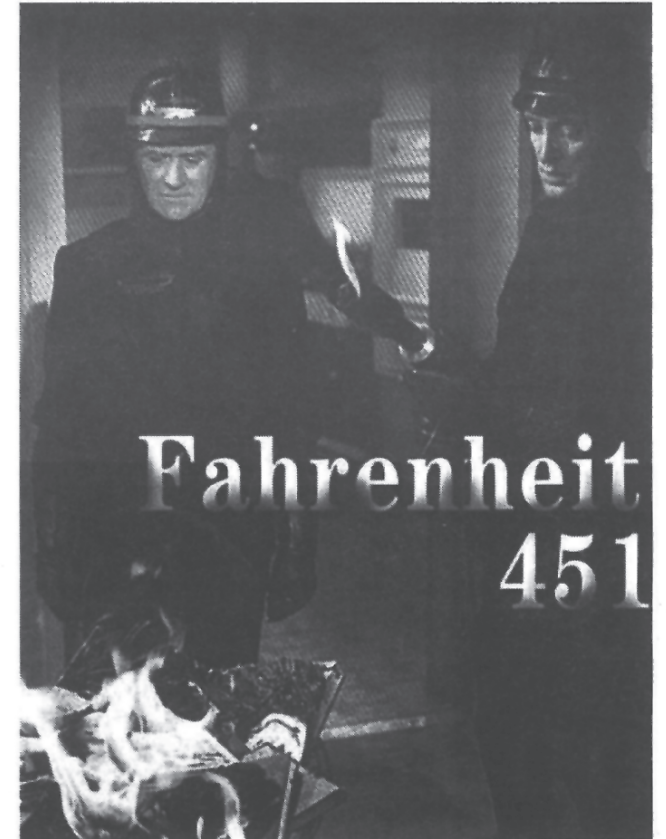
Fahrenheit 451 focuses the character Guy Montag. Guy Montag is a fireman, but with a twist—instead of putting out fires his job is to start them. (The title refers to the temperature at which pages catch flame.) One day Montag's curiosity gets the best of him; he does the unthinkable and takes a book home.

The discovery of books forces Montag to see the superficiality of his way of life and ultimately sets him on a collision course against his society. It becomes clear at this point in the story that Bradbury is not only criticizing blatantly tyrannical governments, but also the TV-watching, consumer-oriented culture of the U.S. in the 1950s.

Throughout the story, Bradbury uses the stream-of-consciousness style of relaying events. That is, he sometimes describes things in the sort of jumbled way people actually think. Although I think this is very in-

teresting, it may prove challenging for some people who are not familiar with it, or for people who speak English as a second or third language.

I found reading Fahrenheit 451 to be a rewarding experience. It is one of those special books that can make you forget where you are or anything outside of the story. As many governments continue to deny



The book was also made into a movie in 1966.

their people information via censorship, Fahrenheit 451 is likely to stay relevant for many years, and many readers, to come. I highly recommend going to the AUI library to check out a copy of Fahrenheit 451—or another one of Ray Bradbury's books. You aren't likely to be disappointed.

You Got Style

Boots: First Fashionable and then Practical

SOFIA HASNAOUI CHAOUI

You know Nancy Sinatra's chorus: "These boots are made for walking and that just what they do..." Well, it is true—boots are made for walking but not only. At AUI, girls will agree with me when saying that it is the fashionable accessory!

Since the beginning of the semester, a variety of boots have become fashionable on campus. You might be surprised by the array of styles and colors. From cowboy boots to knee-high boots, girls at AUI obviously welcome the revival of boots, the popularity of which declined after the 1980's.

Today, their popularity is noticeable everywhere. AUI is just one example. One junior girl told me that, boots are the ideal accessory to have since you do not need to bother much in order to have style. She said, "Boots allow one to have more atti-

tude and pace, it embellishes the outfit."

This comment is not to be put aside as even snicker designers adopted the high-knee style to give to the snickers a fresh appearance. Examples of this new coveted "snickers-shoe" category are the high-knee Converse, Asics, Addidas, etc.

Boots in the past were essentially made of leather, which is a quite expensive material. Today designers use cheaper materials such as the "simili" leather (sky) or fabric for stylish boots giving more people the chance to own a chic pair. Thanks to these developments, boots at AUI are important to have, not just thanks to the comfort they provide but more for the style.

At AUI where both feeling warm and being up to date is important, one is able to assign a double value to the boots: fashionable and practical.



Ramadan football tournament

MOHAMMED HASSOUNI

Every year, during the holy month of Ramadan, Al Akhawayn University organizes its soccer tournament. In this competition, teams composed of very different players challenge to get the supreme "Grail," the AUI Cup. The competition does not just belong to students—faculty and staff members are welcome.

The competition includes players from a broad range of skill level. Some play for the AUI Lions soccer team, and show very high technical and physical skills, and compete having only victory in mind.

Others participate for the sake of en-

joying the game and for having fun with their friends. However, occasionally the casual teams outclass the "serious" ones because of a better organization and team spirit.

The 2007 tournament has been extremely disputed. We have seen some very hard fought games, in which suspense is constant; for instance, the quarter final match between "Security Team" and "Agraw," or the semifinal game between "Anonymous" and "Starter." In both matches, we had to wait until the last second to know the winner.

As in every year, plenty of goals have



The winning team.



The winning team and their openents after the match.

been scored, and extremely difficult technical movements have been performed, delighting the spectators. Shots on the top corner, individual actions, and headed goals added to the entertainment.

The tournament proved to be a theater drama. After three unsuccessful attempts, "Anonymous" finally won the tournament. Both in the 2005 and 2006 tournaments, they got disqualified because of a bad luck in the shout outs. However, they persisted, and now Scholles, Fouad, Oussama, Fouad, Recoba and X hold the precious trophy at the end of the tournament.

Many teams did not have the success of "Anonymous." Some very good teams could not perform as well as in previous tournaments. As an example, the team called "Footmates" lost in the first round, even though their objective was

to preserve the trophy they gained last year. Some say that it is due to physical exhaustion, while others claim the disappointing performance is due to the loss of one the team's of the most important players, Rami Abu Al Naja. How quickly fortunes change in soccer!

To sum up, this tournament has been great. We saw fantastic games, great teams, and very enthusiastic audiences. The level of the competition was very high, and some goals will remain forever in the memory of the spectators.

The only criticism that I wish to make is about the level of aggressiveness between the players. Unfortunately, this tournament saw many verbal and physical fights. We only hope that the level of fair play will improve in the coming tournaments. One word guys: "Keep the good of the game!"

Gymnasium acquires new equipment

WISSAM KHAOUID

Thanks to the new cardiovascular equipment at the AUI Fitness Center, you do not have to run in the cold weather like Rocky Balboa to stay in shape.

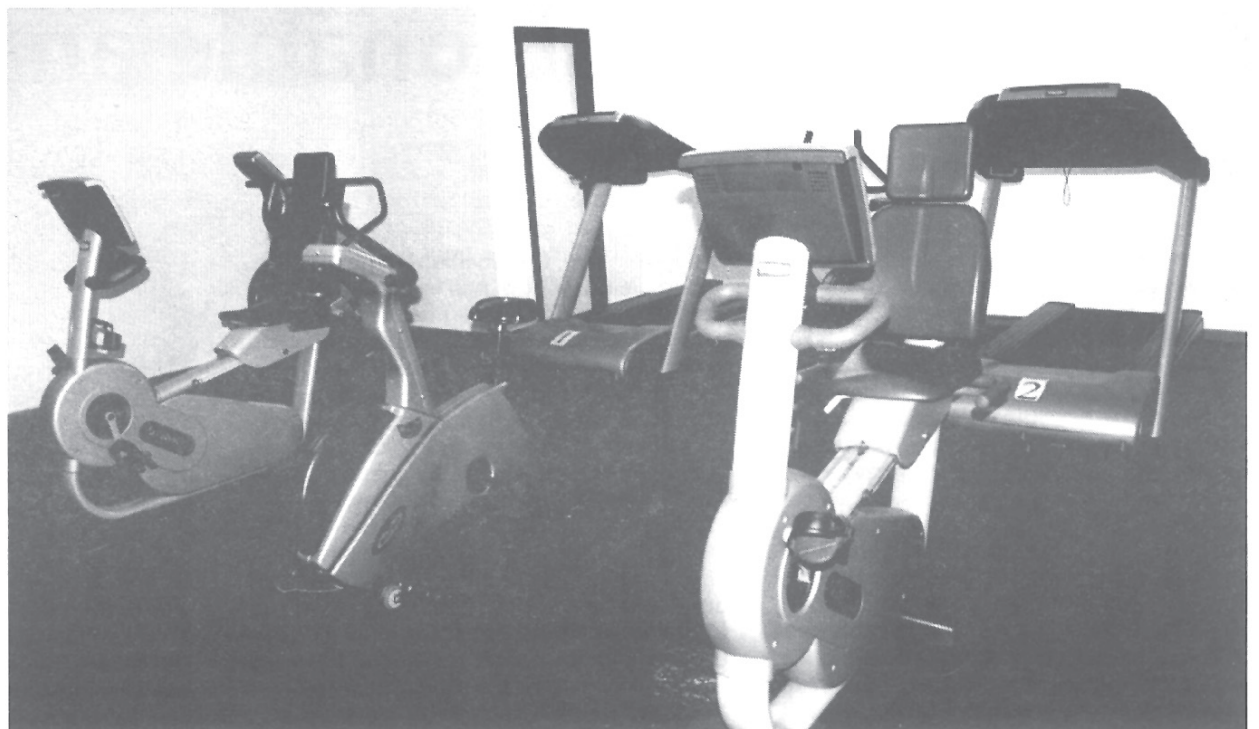
The new equipment can be found in a coolly designed room a few steps away from the weight lifting area inside the gymnasium. Here it is possible to watch TV or listen to music as you exercise.

Mustafa, an employee in the fitness center, said AUI community members have been happy to make use of the new cardiovascular equipment. Ifrane's cool climate is a factor in this. The high altitude of AUI adds to the difficulty of running outside, especially for novice runners.

The new equipment provides a fun alternative to braving the elements outside. Whether walking is your preference, or running fits your style, cardiovascular machines provide you with a wide range of exercise options.

Since runners can set the machines on whatever levels they are most comfortable with, the risks of injury are less than running on asphalt or in the woods. If any one has difficulty operating the machines, gym employees are readily available to provide assistance.

Due to the limited number of machines, students wishing to use the new equipment are advised to reserve machines ahead of time.



Sudoku

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

	4		3	5	1			7
	5	9		8	2			1
								5
8					9	7		6
9	6		2		5		3	8
4		7	1					5
	8							
3			8	1		5	2	
5			6	9	4			8

Level: Easy

		2	6	5	4			
3		4		9		5		
	9			7				
								7
4		1	5	6	7	8		9
6								
				4				5
		6		2		9		1
			1	8	9	3		

Level: Medium

7							3	4
1			3				8	
			9		7	5		
			2		9		1	
	4		5		6		9	
	6		1		3			
		2	6		8			
		3			1			8
5	8							3

Level: Difficult

Last issue's solutions

8	4	6	1	9	2	5	7	3
1	7	9	5	3	4	8	2	6
5	3	2	8	6	7	4	9	1
3	2	4	6	8	5	9	1	7
6	1	7	9	4	3	2	8	5
9	5	8	2	7	1	3	6	4
2	6	1	3	5	9	7	4	8
7	8	5	4	2	6	1	3	9
4	9	3	7	1	8	6	5	2
8	6	2	3	9	7	5	4	1
4	3	7	5	1	8	9	2	6
1	9	5	6	4	2	7	8	3
2	7	9	1	8	3	6	5	4
5	1	6	9	7	4	8	3	2
3	4	8	2	6	5	1	7	9
9	5	3	7	2	6	4	1	8
6	2	4	8	5	1	3	9	7
7	8	1	4	3	9	2	6	5
3	9	4	8	2	5	7	6	1
7	6	2	1	3	9	5	8	4
8	1	5	6	7	4	3	2	9
4	8	1	5	6	3	2	9	7
2	7	6	4	9	8	1	5	3
5	3	9	7	1	2	8	4	6
6	5	7	9	8	1	4	3	2
1	4	3	2	5	6	9	7	8
9	2	8	3	4	7	6	1	5

Level: Easy

Level: Medium

Level: Difficult

Crosswords

ACROSS

1. Portion
6. Deceptive imitation
10. Elephant youngster
14. Hawk's claw
15. Concern
16. Prima donna's solo
17. Select group
18. Baking chamber
19. Peruse
20. Kitchen vessel
21. A larger amount
23. Anxieties
24. Ocean movement
25. Nothing more than
27. Experiencing
- 23-Across
30. Deflected
34. Yarns
35. West Point student
36. That woman
37. Poker stake
38. Grinding tooth
39. See 53-Down
40. Fish eggs
41. Gives a pink slip to
42. Foundation
43. Repairs, as a car
45. River embankments
46. Smallest bills
47. Country road
48. Situation
51. Walk through water
52. Far from bright
55. Weak; ineffectual
56. Bide one's time
58. Worship
60. Copycat

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20				21	22					23				
			24					25	26					
27	28	29					30					31	32	33
34						35						36		
37					38						39			
40				41							42			
43			44							45				
			46					47						
48	49	50					51					52	53	54
55						56	57				58	59		
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

61. Otherwise
 62. Pitchfork features
 63. Animal enclosures
 64. Forest creature
 65. Pays attention to
- ### DOWN
1. Dance movement
 2. Angel's topper?
 3. Dismounted
 4. Nonsense: slang
 5. Foes
 6. Tally
 7. Hold in the hand
 8. Exist
 9. Chess pieces
 10. Person's

- lifework
11. Region
12. Prevaricator
13. Short-lived customs
22. Out of the ordinary
23. Worry
24. Arbor Day planting
25. Mythical king
26. Always
27. Leading performers
28. Narrow boat
29. Change
30. Valleys
31. The ones there
32. Weird
33. Adorn
35. Apple discards
38. Granary invaders

39. Rescue
41. Monetary penalty
42. Under
44. Electorate
45. Boy
47. After some time
48. Word before "happy" or "stick"
49. Record (sound)
50. Prayer ending
51. Smart
52. Finished
53. Ticked off
54. Army meal
56. Marry
57. Malt beverage
59. Gaming cube

Opera Night at Al Akhawayn University

